

## Course Selection Worksheet

<b>English 8</b> <input type="checkbox"/> College Prep <input type="checkbox"/> Honors
<b>Literature 8</b> <input type="checkbox"/> College Prep <input type="checkbox"/> Honors
<b>Math</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Algebra <input type="checkbox"/> Algebra I* <input type="checkbox"/> Algebra I Honors*
<b>Physical Science</b> <input type="checkbox"/> College Prep <input type="checkbox"/> Honors
<b>U.S. History and Geography 8</b> <input type="checkbox"/> College Prep <input type="checkbox"/> Honors
<b>Religion 8</b>
<b>World Language</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Russian I* <input type="checkbox"/> Russian II* <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish I* <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish I Honors* <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish II* <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish II Honors*
<b>Electives</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Beginning Robotics* <input type="checkbox"/> Choir* <input type="checkbox"/> Intro Art* <input type="checkbox"/> Theatre I* <input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate Band* ** <input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate Strings* ** <input type="checkbox"/> M.S. Dance <input type="checkbox"/> M.S. Yoga <input type="checkbox"/> Conditioning

\*High school credit.

Many electives are 1 semester (0.5 credits) unless otherwise indicated.

\*\*Year-long elective (1.0 credits)

★ New or updated course.

## ENGLISH

### **8th Grade: College Prep English**

This course continues to develop necessary skills in grammar and mechanics and covers elements such as phrases, clauses, sentences, parts of speech and vocabulary. In composition, students learn the fundamentals of the writing process by incorporating daily instruction in outlining, analytical voice, and refining paragraph composition.

### **8th Grade: Honors English**

*Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation and Enrollment in 8th Grade Honors Literature*

This course prepares students for ninth grade Honors English by building on pre-existing skills in grammar and writing mechanics. Elements covered are phrases, clauses, sentences, parts of speech, and vocabulary. In composition, students learn the fundamentals of the writing process by incorporating daily instruction in outlining, analytical voice, and refining paragraph composition.

### **8th Grade: College Prep Literature**

This course surveys prose, poetry, and drama with a focus on building a strong basis for literary analysis. While students will learn to identify literary elements within texts such as characterization, theme, and style, they will also explore the aesthetic elements of the texts, and the emotions, experiences, and questions it awakens within them.

### **8th Grade: Honors Literature**

*Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation and Enrollment in 8th Grade Honors English*

This course is designed to prepare the students for Honors English I. The content of this class is the same as 8th grade College Prep Literature; however, more extensive reading selections will be required. Composition will include the writing of in-class timed AP style essays and multi-paragraph essays with a strong thesis and supporting evidence.

## MATH

### **8th Grade: Pre-Algebra College Prep**

This course reinforces mathematical skills taught in the sixth and seventh grades with additional advanced computation including an emphasis on algebraic concepts. Students study fractions, decimals, percentages, integers and rational numbers. They become more proficient in using ratios, proportions and solving algebraic equations, both one and two step problem solving involving fractions, decimals, and whole numbers. Students will develop and expand problem solving skills (creatively and analytically) to solve word problems. Successful completion of this course prepares students for success in Algebra I.

## **Algebra I College Prep**

Algebra I is designed to develop the student's proficiency with algebraic skills. The course will teach the student to solve both linear and quadratic equations, including their graphs, and to apply algebraic concepts and skills in deductive reasoning and problem solving. Solving, evaluating, and graphing skills are crucial to the success of the student. The course includes linear, quadratic, rational, and exponential functions and equations.

Students may receive one high school math credit for successful completion of this course.

## **Algebra I Honors**

*Prerequisite: Department approval*

Honors Algebra I is designed to develop the student's proficiency with mathematical skills. The course will enlarge mathematical vocabulary and enable the student to apply algebraic concepts and skills in deductive reasoning and problem solving. As an honors course, each area will be covered in greater detail than in Algebra I, including linear, quadratic, rational, and exponential functions and equations. Students are expected to develop high level work ethics, finishing all work by the designated due date, and justifying all answers by showing all steps for each concept.

Students may receive one high school math credit for successful completion of this course.

## **SCIENCE**

### **8th Grade: Physical Science College Prep**

Physical Science introduces middle school students to the world of physics and chemistry. It stresses the importance of observation of the world around us as part of the scientific method. The course includes topics from physics and chemistry, including motion, forces, waves, electricity, atomic structure, states of matter, and chemical reactions.

### **8th Grade: Physical Science Honors**

Physical Science Honors introduces middle school students to concepts found in physics and chemistry. In this course, students are asked to observe the world around them as well as in the controlled laboratory environment. The course includes topics from physics and chemistry, including motion, forces, work and energy, electricity and magnetism, atomic theory, chemical bonding, and chemical reactions.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

### **8th Grade: U.S. History and Geography College Prep**

In U.S. History and Geography, students will learn the significance of prominent individuals, movements, cultures and events throughout the history of the United States from colonization up until Reconstruction and how each one molded and shaped the U.S. into what it is today. We will study the geographic, economic, political, and social developments throughout the history of the U.S. through Reconstruction. Emphasis will be placed on the political and economic developments in U.S. history, as well as the cultural impact of institutions such as Federalism, Anti-Federalism, slavery, abolitionism, and regionalism. Each student will learn to think critically and evaluate information through hands-on application and in-class learning activities. Students will also learn skills such as note-taking, map reading, researching, document reading, and essay writing.

### **8th Grade: U.S. History and Geography Honors**

This course provides a survey of the history of the United States from initial colonization to the Civil War. Emphasis will be placed on the political and economic developments in US history, as well as the cultural impact of institutions such as Federalism, Anti-Federalism, slavery, abolitionism, and regionalism. Additional emphasis will be placed on developing the skills necessary for promotion into the AP Social Studies program. Students will strengthen reading, writing, geography, and study skills, as well as document analysis in order to prepare them for the rigors of the AP classes.

## **RELIGION**

### **8th Grade: The Church Then and Now – The Holy Spirit / Church History**

The eighth-grade Religion program focuses on the foundation and history of the Church that Jesus founded. Students will get an appreciation for the early years of the Church under the leadership of Peter and missions of Paul, as recorded by Luke in Acts of the Apostles and the by Paul in the Pauline epistles. Students will explore the growth of the Church from its early years to today. Students will learn about the four marks of the Church, which define us and which we profess in our creed: one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.

## **WORLD LANGUAGE**

### **Russian I**

In this beginners' Russian language course, students will learn the Cyrillic alphabet and the fundamentals of Russian pronunciation. Students will acquire knowledge of the language through the use of varied activities that develop contemporary conversational, reading and writing skills. The course also provides an introduction to modern Russian culture. Benchmark proficiency: Novice low to Novice high.

Students may receive one high school Russian credit for successful completion of this course.

### **Russian II**

Russian II builds on the foundation established in Russian I by expanding vocabulary, grammatical, reading, writing and speaking knowledge and skills. This course will stress detailed examination of the Russian Language and culture based on multimedia material used in Russian I. Students will acquire additional proficiency and fluency in speaking, reading, and writing Russian in practical situations. Benchmark proficiency: Novice mid to Intermediate Low

Students may receive one high school Russian credit for successful completion of this course.

### **Spanish I College Prep**

As a beginning course for college-bound students, Spanish I seeks to develop fundamental skills in the four basic areas of language: speaking, understanding, reading, and writing. With a heavy focus on input based activities through reading and listening. It includes an introduction to the culture of the Spanish-speaking world. Benchmark proficiency: Novice low to Novice high.

### **Spanish I Honors**

Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation

This course is designed to build upon fundamental listening and speaking capabilities of students. The course will also develop and increase underlying skills in reading, spelling, and writing competency and creativity while improving overall language skills for use with mass communication and daily life situations with a focus on basic academic language beyond the familiar use. Benchmark proficiency: Novice high to Intermediate low.

Students may receive one high school Spanish credit for successful completion of this course.

### **Spanish II College Prep**

*Prerequisite: Spanish I*

Spanish II continues the development of skills in all four areas of language, through input-based activities and authentic sources that provide cultural awareness as well as cultural studies in the native language. Writing and Speaking carry a heavier load and are heavily supported by



communicative tasks and comprehensible input. Benchmark proficiency: Novice mid to Intermediate Low.

Students may receive one high school Spanish credit for successful completion of this course.

## **Spanish II Honors**

*Prerequisite: Spanish I Honors and Teacher Recommendation*

This second course is designed to build upon the fundamental listening and speaking capabilities that were strengthened in Spanish I Honors. The course will also further develop and increase the underlying skills that were augmented in reading, spelling, and writing competency and creativity while improving even further overall language skills for use with mass communication and daily life situations, broadening academic vocabulary is expected and supported by authentic resources aligned with AP curriculum Benchmark proficiency: Intermediate low to intermediate high.

## **ELECTIVES**

### **Intermediate Band**

This class is for all 7-8th grade band students, focusing on improved fundamentals and technique, using early level literature. This is open to beginning musicians in the 7-8th grades; however, extra effort will be required to perform at the same level as the other musicians. Completion of this class should yield mature, informed, disciplined, and competent young musicians, prepared for advanced and marching band.

Students may receive one full high school Fine Art credit for successful completion of this course.

### **Intermediate String Orchestra**

*Prerequisite: Audition or Beginning String Orchestra*

Intermediate String Orchestra (violin, viola, cello, string bass) is the class that bridges beginning orchestra experience to the opportunities afforded the advanced orchestra musicians. Students play more complex music than beginning players and serve in more responsible ways—playing at worship services, local community events, etc. They also begin to see the myriad musical horizons that studying a string orchestral instrument allows them.

Students may receive one full high school Fine Art credit for successful completion of this course.

## **Choir**

### *Semester Course*

Choir is for all 7-12th grade beginning or experienced musicians; the goals of the class will be tailored to the needs of the students with a focus on music literacy, basic theory, and performance techniques. Musicians will be performing various styles of music. There will be performance opportunities for the individual as well as the ensemble, as appropriate.

Students may receive one half high school Fine Art credit for successful completion of this course.

## **Theatre I**

### *Semester Course*

Theatre Arts I will introduce students to the conventions of theatre including its history and traditions. Through diverse forms of storytelling and production, students will exercise and develop creativity, intellectual curiosity, critical thinking, problem solving, and collaboration skills. Participation and evaluation in a variety of theatrical experiences will afford students opportunities to develop an understanding of self and their role in the world.

Students may receive one half high school Fine Art or Speech credit for successful completion of this course.

## **Beginning Robotics**

### *Semester Course*

Students will learn the foundations of robotics and how they are used in the modern world today. A variety of coding environments will be explored, including MIT Scratch, Minecraft in Education, Lego EV# Mindstorm Education and Microsoft's Make Code. Upon completion of the course, the successful student will understand the basics of robotics and robot design, their use in everyday life and the ability to safely apply these concepts in the laboratory.

Students may receive one half high school Technology credit for successful completion of this course.

## **Introduction to Art**

### *Semester Course*

Introduction to Art is an introductory studio drawing course with emphasis on developing basic drawing skills and fundamental design and composition concepts. In addition to technical skills, an exploration of creative thinking, problem solving, and critical analysis will be studied. Students will be encouraged to develop an expression of individual style.

Students may receive one half high school Fine Art credit for successful completion of this course.

## **Conditioning**

### *Semester Course*

This course focuses on the different aspects and processes in maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Students will learn about the dietary needs of the human body and healthy eating. The students will learn the benefits of a fitness routine, ranging from weights to cardio-vascular exercise to movement exercises such as yoga and Pilates. The course will combine theory and practice, so the informed student will have the tools to pursue a healthier lifestyle.

## **Middle School Yoga**

### *Semester Course*

Yoga is a form of exercise that gets one in tune with the body's muscles, improves posture, expands breathing capabilities, and aids in physical and mental well-being. Focused in developing strength, balance and flexibility, the semester-long course will help increase concentration levels and vitality as well as decrease stress and improve mental clarity. This class is geared toward beginners.

## **Middle School Dance**

### *Semester Course (Spring Semester)*

Dance I is an introduction to contemporary, lyrical, hip hop, jazz, and modern dance technique. Students will learn conditioning exercises, basic dance warm ups and stretches, and perform lyrical and jazz combinations as a class. Students will also learn dance terminology, choreography, and history.