



2025-2026  
**8<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
Elective Course Descriptions

*Below are brief descriptions of the potential courses for 2025-2026. Students will need to select their top three choices. **Staffing, enrollment, and student interest will determine which classes are offered.** There are no guarantees, but we will do everything we can to give students their desired elective course.*

**Music courses:**

**Beginning Band (601000):** In Band, students will learn to play a musical instrument of their choice, learning musical concepts along with the fundamentals of playing an instrument. Practice at home and attendance at concerts are required.

**Advanced Band (601100):** In Advanced Band, students will further develop the skills they learned in Beginning Band. Practice at home and attendance at concerts are required. Advanced Band is only for students that already passed the Beginning Band or for students that have sufficient prior experience.

**Chorus (601300):** In this class, students develop skills to sing correctly and learn the basics of good musicianship through a variety of music. No previous experience is required, but a willingness to sing and participate is a must! Practice at home and attendance at concerts are required.

**Orchestra (Strings 601200):** In Orchestra students will learn to play a musical instrument of their choice, learning musical concepts along with the fundamentals of playing an instrument and developing good musicianship skills. Practice at home and attendance at concerts are required.

**Advanced Orchestra (Strings 601400):** In Advanced Orchestra, students will further develop the skills they learned in Strings. Practice at home and attendance at concerts are required. Advanced Strings is only for students that have already passed Strings or for students that have sufficient prior experience

**Ukulele Ensemble (601900):** Ukulele: a small, four-stringed guitar with Hawaiian origin. Also, tons of fun to play. In this class you will learn basic musicianship such as how to play a ukulele, playing with other people, learn how to read music and chords, and perform songs learned in class. This class will allow you to also play many contemporary and pop songs. No experience is necessary!

**All other courses:**

**Art- Intro to Art & Design (703200):**

The world is filled with so many different forms of art – In this course, you'll explore art found in everything from the traditional studio of drawing & painting to the digital world of graphic design and photography. The visual art curriculum for this course is geared to the student who would like an introduction to a variety of art mediums. The elements and principles of the visual arts standards are stressed through different projects utilizing a variety of materials, processes, techniques, and art history references. \*All mediums including art supplies & technology are used throughout the year and will vary depending on the project and standard explored.

**The Art of Literature (703500):** This course will give students opportunities to demonstrate their understanding of literary elements through various visual representations. Throughout the year, students will read an assortment of short stories, poems, cultural legends, and myths and use a variety of artistic mediums to demonstrate their understanding of characterization, setting, theme, and conflict within the texts

**AVID (700800):** AVID 8 (Advancement Via Individual Determination) The AVID 8 elective is designed to support, prepare, and inspire you as you prepare for entrance into high school. AVID 8 students will take field trips to University of California campuses, as well as private universities, build on their learning about the college/university system, and learn about the high school requirements to prepare for college entrance. The AVID 8 elective is designed for those students with the desire to attend college upon graduation from high school. The student's academic confidence and self-image improves, and they become successful leaders and role models for other students. Students must maintain Cs or higher in all their classes to stay in the AVID elective. Students must choose an alternate elective.

**Leadership (701000):** This class will be responsible for organizing and promoting student activities (dances and events, bulletins, school spirit events). Students will learn basic leadership skills like public speaking, presentation, and various strategies for managing a small group. Students will also be reflective of their own self and strive to better themselves. Students will be expected to perform community service. An interview will be required for students wishing to participate. Students must maintain a 2.5 or higher and have excellent behavior. Interviews occur in February in order to participate in this elective.

**Performing Arts (601500):** This is a performing arts course that will provide students with the opportunity to develop performance skills in the areas of stage direction, movement and dance, theater, film, and even some of the technical side of putting on a show. Within this performance-based course, students of all experience levels (from beginning to advanced) are welcome to participate and will be able to utilize personal talents as well as develop skills that will contribute to the culture and community of our campus.

**Spanish Year 1 or 2 (702000 year 1) (702100 year 2):** Students will understand, speak, read, and write Spanish. Spanish will be used with daily class routines. Lessons will center on familiar situations, meeting people, friends, school, family, etc. This course is for those who can devote the time necessary to learning a world language. To earn High School credit, Spanish 2 must be completed with B grade or higher.

**STEM-Science By Design (706500):** This class introduces students to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and students will focus on developing the skills of logical reasoning, inquiry, collaboration, and investigation. Activities may include research, design and building of projects such as robotics, gliders, bridges, mousetrap cars and rockets. Students will become familiar with conducting scientific experiments, preparing scientific reports and proper presentation skills.

**Strategies for Academic Success (414100):** Students will be given tools to practice and consistently utilize strategies for academic success. They will learn how to use the planner, locate information from textbooks, manage time wisely, study for tests, stay organized in tracking homework, and work in cooperative learning activities. This course is intended for students who are not on track to participate in promotion.

**Questions?** Email [augonzalez@lodiUSD.net](mailto:augonzalez@lodiUSD.net)