

8th GRADE RELATED ARTS OFFERINGS (2025-2026)

Class offerings may change based on teacher availability and student interest.

Eighth Grade Visual Art-9 Weeks-Teacher, Crystal Jahnig

This course will emphasize independent artistic growth through choice-based learning. Students will explore advanced techniques in pottery, painting, sculpture, printmaking, and mixed media while being encouraged to create projects that reflect their personal interests and creative vision. Sketchbooks will be used daily for planning, reflection, and skill building. Art discussions and critiques will help students expand their vocabulary and refine their ability to analyze and discuss artwork. Students will engage in collaborative projects to build off peer connections, with an emphasis on teamwork and shared creative experiences.

Eighth Grade Portfolio Art-Semester-Crystal Jahnig

Portfolio Art is a semester-long course designed for student artists who want to deepen their skills and build a comprehensive art portfolio. During the first nine weeks, students will focus on creating required projects in drawing, painting, sculpture, and mixed media to showcase their range of abilities. Afterward, they will develop 8 to 16 unique works, allowing them to explore personal interests and artistic styles in greater depth. Throughout the semester, student artists will refine their techniques, experiment with materials, and curate a cohesive body of work. They will also develop presentation skills and practice writing artist statements to articulate their creative intentions. At the end of the course, students will have the opportunity to present their completed portfolios to the Brentwood High School art department.

Art Meets Music-9 Weeks – Teacher, Leah Lindsey

If you like music AND art, this class is for you! In this course, we will discover how both art and music can be used together for artists to express their creativity. We will create visual art based on music we are inspired by and write music compositions that reflect other's art or our own art!

Theatre 8th Grade-9 Weeks – Teacher, Meredith Daniel

Semester 8th Grade Theatre is designed to build upon the foundational theatre skills established in 6th and 7th grade, which include building confidence through performance, memorization, and collaboration. Through games and activities, we will study character development, published works, and playwriting. We will also study various moments throughout theatre history, including Commedia dell'arte and the Elizabethan Theatre.

Advanced Theatre –Semester – Teacher, Meredith Daniel

The Advanced Theatre class focuses on taking our love of theatre to the next level. Through ensemble activities and individual study, students will learn proper voice, diction, and movement techniques while learning how to produce a show from beginning to end. The semester will conclude with a One Act show performed for friends and family. Students will be responsible for performing, directing, producing, and running all technical aspects of the production.

8th Choir – Year – Teacher, Leah Lindsey

This is a year-long course where students will explore the elements of music—rhythm, melody, harmony, dynamics, and texture—through ensemble singing. Students will develop their vocal technique while learning to interpret lyrics and express meaning through music. The class emphasizes collaboration with students working as a choir to blend voices, follow musical cues, and create cohesive performances. By studying a variety of songs, students will gain experience in interpreting different musical styles and genres. There will be several opportunities for students to perform throughout the year including winter and spring concerts, honor choirs, and the MTVA Choral Performance Assessment. No prior singing experience is required, and all students will be part of a supportive and engaging learning environment!

8th Semester Choir – Teacher, Lindsey

In this semester-long choir course, students will explore the elements of music—rhythm, melody, harmony, dynamics, and texture—through ensemble singing. Students will develop their vocal technique while learning to interpret lyrics and express meaning through music. The class emphasizes collaboration with students working as a choir to blend voices, follow musical cues, and create cohesive performances. By studying a variety of songs, students will gain experience in interpreting different musical styles and genres. The course will culminate in a final performance, allowing students to showcase their hard work and growth as musicians. No prior singing experience is required, and all students will be part of a supportive and engaging learning environment. Students may choose to stay in the choir after the semester is finished as they will be combined with the year-long choir students.

Music Production-9 Weeks– Teacher, Leah Lindsey

In this course, students will dive deeper into music production using more advanced features of Garageband and other digital tools. They will explore composition, sound design, audio mixing, and digital effects while enhancing their understanding of melody, harmony, rhythm, and dynamics. Through collaborative projects and independent work, students will create original compositions and remixes, applying advanced music literacy and production skills. Critical listening sessions will analyze various genres to inspire creativity. Prior experience with music software is helpful but not required, as the course supports all skill levels.

Band – Year – Teacher, Juliet Lang

The eighth-grade band is open to students who have at least two years of experience on their instrument. Students will continue to expand their playing ability, improve their range, tone, and technique, refine their ensemble skills, apply music history and theory skills, and perform individually and as a group. Students achieving a high level will be encouraged to audition for the MTSBOA Mid State Clinic Bands and the MTSBOA Solo and Ensemble Performance Assessment. Students will attend the Middle Tennessee School Band and Orchestra Association Concert and Sight-Reading Performance Assessment in the spring. Students will be expected to practice individually in preparation for class and to attend performances including winter and spring concerts, WCS Band Exhibition, 8th Grade Band Night, and several culminating concerts and activities.

Advanced Orchestra-Year – Teacher, Mickey Rybiski

This class is only open to students with prior experience on an orchestral string instrument. 8th grade

students will focus on advanced tone production, intonation, tuning, shifting, vibrato, advanced bowing techniques, and more. This class concentrates on more advanced rhythmic and technical accuracy as well as preparation and performance of Grade 3 string orchestra literature. The 8th Grade Orchestra is fundamental preparation for participation in the Brentwood High School Orchestra Program. Students can participate in the Williamson County Honor Orchestra Clinic, MTSBOA Concert Performance Assessment, and are eligible for the MTSBOA Mid-State Orchestra. The 8th Grade Orchestra has at least four large concerts each year and may participate in a variety of other festivals and performances.

Entrepreneurship-Semester-Teacher, Teri Schoof

The entrepreneurship class (mxINC) is a semester-long program and is completed in partnership with the [Entrepreneurship and Innovation Center \(EIC\)](#) next to Franklin High School, an academic program open to select freshman and all 10th - 12th grade students. The mxINC program allows students to become entrepreneurs by evaluating the world around them, identifying a problem to solve, creating and building a product or service-based solution, and pitching the solution to others. Working in small groups, students develop critical skills in collaboration, teamwork, communication and decision-making as they progress through the research, testing, and development of the product or service and the preparation of their final pitches. **Only eighth grade students that are part of the mxINC are eligible to interview and apply to be a part of the EIC as a rising freshman.**

Advanced Video Design and Production – Semester – Teacher, Teri Schoof

This class is available to students who took Introduction to Video Production in 7th grade. They will continue their study of video production techniques. The history of moviemaking will be studied in conjunction with a website design unit. Students will review camera angles, shots, and movements and how to use the cameras to get their desired effect. As the class progresses, students will develop storyboards and are responsible for writing, producing, directing, recording, and editing many projects including PSA's, news broadcasts, interviews, silent movies, and music videos. This is an accelerated class that focuses heavily on working independently and collaboratively to complete projects at a fast pace. Students taking this class will have many of the skills necessary to continue in the TV and Film program at Brentwood High School.

Computer Science-Video Game Design – Semester – Teacher, Teri Schoof

In this class, students will begin with a study of video game characteristics and the various elements necessary for successful video games. As they progress through the online curriculum, they will learn to think like programmers. They will learn technical skills like programming, graphic design, and animation that will help them in the creation of several games. They will also learn to test and debug the programs they are creating. In addition, students will participate in in-class activities related to the six core technology concepts as outlined by the state. Students enrolling in video game design need to be adept at reading and following directions, detailed-oriented problem-solvers, and motivated learners ready for higher-level thinking challenges. ***This course meets the six core concepts as defined by the State of Tennessee. The core concepts are foundational concepts, Data & Analysis, Algorithmic Thinking, Networking & the Internet, Programming Concepts, & Impacts of Computing.***

Computer Science-9 Weeks-Teachers, Lyn Anderson

Introduction into Computational Thinking and Programming is a 9-week course intended to provide students with exposure to various programming and digital literacy. This course is required to meet

the Tennessee computer science requirement for middle school students. It may be taken in any quarter in a student's 6th, 7th, or 8th grade year. ***This course meets the six core concepts as defined by the State of Tennessee. The core concepts are foundational concepts, Data & Analysis, Algorithmic Thinking, Networking & the Internet, Programming Concepts, & Impacts of Computing.***

STEAM Innovations – 9 Weeks-Lyn Anderson or Teri Schoof

This class will provide students with the opportunity to deepen their understanding of the content connections that exist between science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics (STEAM). Students will learn about the Engineering Design Process and how that is used in today's world. This class will be project based and have a multitude of different projects. This class's projects will focus more on the creativity and technology side of STEAM.

Computer Science-Advanced Robotics – 9 Weeks – Teacher, Matt Brooks

Robotics is a hands-on interdisciplinary course. Students work in teams to design, build, program, test, and operate robots of their own creation. Students learn teamwork, leadership, and project management. Students explore a variety of computer science topics such as coding, cybersecurity, and computer networks. ***This course is designed to meet the Tennessee computer science requirements for middle school students. The course meets the six core concepts as defined by the State of Tennessee. The core concepts are foundational concepts, Data & Analysis, Algorithmic Thinking, Networking & the Internet, Programming Concepts, & Impacts of Computing***

Computer Science-Competitive Robotics (VEX Vikings)-Year – Teacher, Matt Brooks

This year-long course is an intensive, hands-on, interdisciplinary program. Students work in teams to design, build, and train with robots in preparation for the VEX IQ robotics competition. Teams compete throughout the school year with other middle school robotics teams throughout middle Tennessee. Students learn teamwork, leadership, and project management. Students explore a variety of computer science topics such as coding, cybersecurity, and computer networks. ***This course is designed to meet the Tennessee computer science requirements for middle school students. The course meets the six core concepts as defined by the State of Tennessee. The core concepts are foundational concepts, Data & Analysis, Algorithmic Thinking, Networking & the Internet, Programming Concepts, & Impacts of Computing.***

Wellness (PE)-9 Weeks – Teachers, Ben Hahs, Dennis Harrison, Anne Johnston, Sarah Richardson

This nine-week class will include participation in games such as volleyball, tennis, ping pong, flag football, circuit training, ultimate frisbee, frisbee golf, and spike ball. Fitness testing and re-testing will be completed to evaluate student progress. In the health portion of the course, students will study nutrition. Wellness will also incorporate the opportunity for those interested in Sports Media Operations to learn the new scoreboard system and how to produce content on a game night.