



ELECTIVE OFFERINGS FOR RISING 8TH GRADE STUDENTS Albemarle County Public Schools

As our students progress through middle school, we design our offerings to provide opportunities for students to identify and develop personal interests.

Below is a list of all elective classes we may offer next year.

8th Grade Elective Offerings: Please think about the following course offerings and place a mark beside any of interest. You will use this to help make your decisions on SchoolLinks.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Art 8 | <input type="checkbox"/> General Music 8 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AVID 8 | <input type="checkbox"/> Guitar |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Band 8 | <input type="checkbox"/> Humanities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Broadcast Journalism | <input type="checkbox"/> Latin I (HS Credit) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business and Entrepreneurship | <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership Exploration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chorus 8 | <input type="checkbox"/> Media, Arts, and Design Exploration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coding, Cyber, and IT Exploration | <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed Media Art |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Creative Writing | <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Debate | <input type="checkbox"/> Orchestra 8 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Design & Construction Exploration | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drama 8 | <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish for Fluent Speakers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering Exploration | <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish I (HS Credit) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> French I (HS Credit) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yearbook |

Please note: We do our best to schedule students into their highest-ranked elective courses. However, there are times when we are unable to do so. If we do not have enough students register for a class, we may not run it for the next school year.

-----8th Grade Course Descriptions-----

Art 8: Art (grade 8) courses provide to students activities that foster creative expression, communication through artistic endeavor, and appreciation of culture and heritage. Activities may include those that enable students to refine their technique, increase their artistic vocabulary, express themselves and their world view, make connections to other content areas, develop their own aesthetic, and strengthen their critical abilities. Although typically involving the visual arts (drawing, painting, sculpture, crafts, and the like), these courses may also include other forms of art (for example, dance, music, and theater). Specific course content conforms to any existing state standards for grade 8.

AVID 8: AVID is a nationally recognized program for students who have the capability to achieve in rigorous, college preparatory courses but may currently be underachieving. The AVID elective is a year long elective that provides students with academic support and motivational activities. Students must apply for AVID and meet national and local requirements for participation.

Band 8: Band courses help students develop techniques for playing brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments and their ability to perform a variety of concert band literature styles. These courses may emphasize rehearsal and performance experiences in a range of styles and also include experiences in creating and responding to music.

Broadcast Journalism: Speech Communications/Drama courses enable students to express themselves through dramatic play and storytelling. Course content typically includes the use of movement, language, character, plot, and spectacle to portray imaginary or real experiences. As appropriate, students may focus on acting techniques and traditions, other aspects of drama (staging, lighting, costuming), or both. Specific course content conforms to any existing state standards for grade 8.

Business and Entrepreneurship: This course introduces students to the exciting world of creating, owning, and launching their own business. Students will learn concepts and techniques for planning an innovative business and marketing their ideas and creations. Students design, establish, and operate a small group or class business, producing a service or product that meets an identified school or community need. Emphasis is placed on the introduction and application of business terminology, basic entrepreneurship concepts, and fundamental business principles.

Chorus 8: Chorus courses develop students' vocal skills within the context of a large choral ensemble in which they perform a variety of styles of repertoire. These courses are designed to develop students' vocal techniques and their ability to sing parts and include experiences in creating and responding to music.

Coding, Cyber, and IT Exploration: Students are introduced to the world of business using the computer as a problem-solving tool. Students engage in using computational thinking as a problem solving tool, use programming concepts and methods while creating digital artifacts, and retain their interest in computing as a relevant and exciting field. Learning opportunities are presented in ways that are active, connected, and relevant to them, and promote the perception of themselves as proactive and empowered problem solvers, creators, and innovators capable of changing the world. Collaborative learning experiences at this level prepare students to work in teams and to build supportive partnerships.

Creative Writing: Creative Writing courses offer students the opportunity to develop and improve their technique and individual style in poetry, short story, drama, essays, and other forms of prose. The emphasis of the courses is on writing; however, students may study exemplary representations and authors to obtain a fuller appreciation of the form and craft. Although most creative writing classes cover several expressive forms, others concentrate exclusively on one particular form (such as poetry or playwriting).

Debate: Forensic Speech—Debate courses offer students the opportunity to learn how to use oral skills in formal and informal situations. In these courses, students are able to develop such skills as logic and reasoning, research and analysis, organization of thought and supporting materials, argumentative style and skill, and effective presentation of one's voice and body. Often linked to an extracurricular program, these courses introduce students to the methods, aims, and styles used in various kinds of debates (formal debate or Lincoln-Douglas). Participation in competition is encouraged, but not always required.

Design & Construction Exploration: Students will learn how to modify and control the world around them through exploring, designing, analyzing and evaluating the systems of design, programming and electronics. Students will learn programming and electronics through the use of microcontrollers. Students will use computer-aided design software and advanced manufacturing technologies (3D printing, die cutting, CNC machining, etc.) to create physical objects. The three systems of computer programming, electronics and design will be combined to create mechanical-electrical devices that are computer controlled. Students will also explore technology-oriented careers.

Drama 8: Introduction to Theater courses provide an overview of the art, conventions, and history of the theater arts. Although the courses sometimes include experiential exercises, they emphasize learning about theater processes rather than theatrical production and performance. Course topics include one or more of the following: basic techniques in acting, major developments in dramatic literature, major playwrights, the evolution of theater as a cultural tradition, and critical appreciation of the art and craft of the theater profession.

Engineering Exploration: Students will explore the engineering design process and real-world problem solving through the use of technologies including computer-aided design software, electronics, 3D-printing and CNC machining to discover their related applications. Students make models of significant inventions that have advanced society. After studying these developments, they explore contemporary technological problems facing them, their community, or the world and apply systematic procedures to invent new products or innovations as solutions.

French I: Designed to introduce students to French language and culture, French I courses prepare students to communicate authentically in French by interpreting (reading, listening, viewing), exchanging (speaking and listening; reading and writing), and presenting (speaking, writing) information on a variety of topics. They introduce the relationships among the products, practices, and perspectives of French-speaking cultures.

General Music 8: Music (grade 8) courses enable students to create and perform music, listen and respond to musical compositions, and incorporate their musical experiences with other activities and subjects. Course content usually involves understanding music as creative expression and communication, developing skill with the voice and/or musical instruments, and refining the ability to discern and critique.

Guitar: Guitar courses provide students an introduction to, and refine the fundamentals of music and guitar literature and techniques.

Humanities: Humanities courses examine and evoke student responses to human creative efforts and the world in particular historical periods and cultures. Course content includes exploration, analysis, synthesis, and various responses to cultural traditions, including viewing, listening, speaking, reading, writing, performing and creating. The courses may also examine relationships among painting, sculpture, architecture and music.

Latin I: Through elementary readings and sentences, students in Latin 1 learn how the Latin language operates and how English grammar and vocabulary stem from it. Students learn the inflections, rules of syntax, and vocabulary needed for the comprehension and translation of simple Latin stories. Other activities include English to Latin translation, both oral and written; word study (derivatives and formation of words); and discussion of Roman civilization and mythology.

Leadership Exploration: Prepares students to be leaders in their schools, families, communities and careers through project-based learning. The course offers students the opportunity to practice the lifelong learning and leadership skills necessary to be responsible self advocates, effective communicators and collaborators, responsible citizens, creative thinkers and problem solvers. Students explore concepts of human development, interpersonal relationships, community and resource management, nutrition and wellness, decision making and leadership.

Media, Arts, and Design Exploration: Students will utilize digital tools in the fields of programming and coding, game design, creative design, photography, animation and film and they will enhance their knowledge of media software and how to manipulate and design digital media.

Mixed Media Art: Comprehensive courses enable students to explore one or several art forms (e.g., drawing, painting, two- and three-dimensional design, and sculpture) and to create individual works of art. Initial courses emphasize observations, interpretation of the visual environment, visual communication, imagination, and symbolism. Courses cover the language, materials, media, and processes of a particular art form and the design elements used. Advanced courses encourage students to refine their skills while also developing their own artistic styles following and breaking from traditional conventions. Courses may also include the study of major artists, art movements, and styles.

Newspaper: Journalism courses (typically associated with the production of a school newspaper, yearbook, or literary magazine) emphasize writing style and technique as well as production values and organization. Journalism courses introduce students to the concepts of newsworthiness and press responsibility; develop students' skills in writing and editing stories, headlines, and captions; and teach students the principles of production design, layout, and printing. Photography, photojournalism, and digital technology skills may be included.

Orchestra 8: Orchestra courses help develop students' technique for playing strings along with woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments. These courses may emphasize collaboration through rehearsal and performance experiences in creating and responding to music.

Photography: Photography courses provide students with an understanding of photographic media, techniques, and processes. These courses focus on development of photographic compositions through manipulation of the fundamental processes of artistic expression. Students may learn to make meaningful visual statements with an emphasis on personal creative expression to communicate ideas, feelings, or values. Photography courses may also include the history of photography, historic movements, image manipulation, critical analysis, and some creative special effects. Students engage in critiques of their photographic images, the works of other students, and those by professional photographers for the purpose of reflecting on and refining work.

Spanish for Fluent Speakers: This course will support our growing number of **8th grade Spanish speaking students** who have achieved fluency (either through the dual language program or as heritage or native speakers) and want to continue their study of Spanish. The focus of this class will be on practical applications of Spanish within the Albemarle County community, including partnerships for work-based learning and information around interpretation and translation credentialing, as well as building academic vocabulary in Spanish for students, including specific terminology related to future career and college pathways.

Spanish 1 (High School Spanish): 8th grade students will learn to listen, speak, read, and write in the language through a study of cultures that use the language as part of their heritage. Students will learn basic vocabulary and essential grammar to communicate in simple sentences and navigate real-world experiences. Students will practice basic literacy and gain insight into the way of life of cultures associated with the language.

Yearbook: This course provides students with the knowledge and skills necessary to produce the school yearbook. Students may gain experience in several components (writing, editing, layout, production, and so on) or may focus on a single aspect while producing the publication.