

GRADE 5: ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Please be aware that course offerings are subject to change pending school board decisions.

FINE ARTS

- This course placement is a full year commitment.

BAND 5: The fifth-grade band is the foundation of the Zionsville West Middle School band program. Students learn to read, analyze, and appreciate music while receiving instruction on woodwind, brass, or percussion instruments. Choices include flute, oboe, clarinet, alto or tenor saxophone, trumpet, horn, trombone, euphonium, and percussion. Students will participate in small groups and full-band rehearsals. They will perform in two after-school concerts and have the opportunity to participate in the ISSMA Solo and Ensemble Festival. Grades are based on written assessments and playing checks.

CHORUS 5: Choir is open to any student regardless of previous experience or talent; all that's required is a love for singing and a willingness to work hard. The choirs at ZWMS have earned a reputation for excellence, having appeared as a featured choir at the Indiana Music Educators Association State Convention and in the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir's Festival of Carols. Students will study a wide variety of music, which meets the state standards including classic, folk, popular, gospel, jazz, multicultural, etc. In addition to learning performance skills, students will learn music theory, history, and terminology. Grading is based on proper rehearsal and performance practices, written assignments and tests, and sight reading. Students are expected to perform in concerts outside of the regular school day, which are often highlights of the course. Involvement in choir allows students to enjoy singing, as well as feel a strong sense of social belonging, build confidence, and relieve stress. Many enrichment activities are available for students who wish to go beyond the classroom curriculum; students have been selected to perform in various honor choirs including the Indianapolis Children's Choir, Circle the State with Song, All State Honor Choir, and American Choral Director's Association Division Honor Choirs.

ORCHESTRA 5: This is a beginning level co-curricular string orchestra class. Students learn to read music and work together as a team to create music. There are several performances during the school year and before school rehearsals in preparation for the concerts. Instruments include: violin, viola, cello, and bass. Privately owned or rented instrument is required (the school will provide basses and cellos for at-school use). Grades are based on the following: concert performance, tests and assignments, rehearsal etiquette and playing technique.

EXPLORATORY CLASSES

- All students are scheduled for a semester of PE/Health.
- All students are scheduled for a quarter of Art and a quarter of PLTW.

ART GENERAL 5 - QUARTER COURSE: In 5th grade Art, the chief goals of the curriculum are to develop an understanding and appreciation of the arts, promote creative growth, and enhance critical thinking skills to produce artworks that students are proud of. Students will create both two and three-dimensional art as they experience working with many different types of media and build upon skills and knowledge from previous grade level courses. Beyond art production, the curriculum covers art history (artists and artistic movements), art criticism (critiquing personal artwork and the artwork of others), and art aesthetics (the discussion of the definition of art and beauty). Organizational skills and responsibility are taught and reinforced throughout the class.

PROJECT LEAD THE WAY 5: MEDICAL DETECTIVES - QUARTER COURSE: PLTW Medical Detectives engages students in authentic, problem-based learning experiences aligned to Project Lead the Way Biomedical Science standards, Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), and 21st-Century Skills. Through real-world design challenges, students explore how body systems work together and how science and engineering are used to solve medical problems.

In 5th grade Medical Detectives, students investigate how the human body functions and responds to health challenges. They begin by locating, measuring, and analyzing vital signs, including heart rate, respiratory rate, oxygen levels, and blood pressure, to understand how the body maintains balance. Students then examine the structure and function of neurons and the brain, learning how the body sends and receives signals. This learning is extended through hands-on engineering and coding experience using the VEX IQ Brain, allowing students to model and test how signals are transmitted.

The unit culminates in an outbreak investigation, where students take on the role of epidemiologists by analyzing data, identifying the cause of a disease outbreak, and determining next steps to protect the community. Throughout the course, students consistently apply the Engineering Design Process to communicate ideas, collaborate effectively, solve problems, think creatively and critically, and act ethically while developing solutions to meaningful design challenges.

P.E./HEALTH 5 - SEMESTER COURSE: Through the use of movement, students will learn & develop the fundamentals of cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength, muscular flexibility, and eye-hand coordination. Emphasis will be placed on total physical wellness and the relationship between physical activity and health-related fitness. Students will also explore all aspects of their health to include mental/emotional, physical, and social sides of their health. Students will examine and evaluate their own patterns of behavior through self-assessment.