

GRADE 8: ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

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

WORLD LANGUAGE

- This choice and placement is a full year commitment.

Supporting our ZCS mission and Strong in Every Way initiative, our middle schools provide rich experiences and instruction in world languages. Students will choose one language (French, Mandarin, or Spanish) to study over the course of their 7th and 8th grade years. No matter which language students choose to study over the course of two years, they will be provided an individualized, modern language learning experience that maximizes student proficiency in reading, writing, listening, and speaking another language. The linguistic and cultural competencies gained support productive world citizens.

In 7th grade, students will learn the first part of a level one world language and continue that study in the second part of the chosen world language in 8th grade. Students will stay with the same language over the course of 7th and 8th grade; students will have the option to switch languages once they enter high school. No high school credit is given for world language study at the middle level.

SPANISH LEVEL 1 - PART 2:

Prerequisite: Spanish Level 1 – Part 1

This course builds on the basics and helps students become more confident communicators. Students expand their vocabulary, improve their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills, and explore real-world topics through culture, conversation, and interactive activities. The class is engaging, supportive, and focused on helping every student succeed.

CHINESE LEVEL 1 - PART 2:

Prerequisite: Chinese Level 1 – Part 1

Building on the foundations of Part 1, this course enhances student fluency and comprehension. Students will expand their language skills to navigate daily routines, school life, and social interactions. As proficiency grows, they will begin to engage with practical materials, such as menus and schedules, and explore cultural nuances through collaborative projects and short narrative texts.

FRENCH LEVEL 1 - PART 2:

Prerequisite: French Level 1 – Part 1

Building on the foundation of Part 1, this course offers middle school students an engaging introduction to the French language and the diverse cultures of the French-speaking (Francophone) world. Students will expand their vocabulary, their knowledge of grammatical structures, and refine their pronunciation. They will continue to work on their skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking while working in collaborative and individual learning experiences. This course will provide students with a solid linguistic and cultural foundation on which to build when they begin their French studies at the high school.

FINE ARTS

- This choice and placement is a full year commitment.

ART 8: In 8th 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 they 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.

BAND 8: In 8th Grade Band, we build upon the musical foundation laid in previous classes. Students continue with wind and percussion instruments learning about different styles of music through performance and study. Instruments include the flute, oboe, clarinet, alto and tenor saxophones, trumpet, horn, trombone, euphonium, bass clarinet, bassoon, baritone saxophone, tuba, and percussion. Opportunities remain for students to explore ensemble, solo and chamber performance. The band schedule also includes school performances and ISSMA events. The co-curricular before school Jazz Band is offered to 8th grade students. Grading is based on participation, written and playing tests, worksheets and practice assessments.

CHORUS 8: 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. The curriculum builds on and further develops the skills and content introduced in prior grades. Students will study a wide variety of music, which meets the state standards and includes 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; 7th & 8th Grade music students who are enrolled in a ZWest music ensemble may also choose to audition for Swing Choir, an extracurricular group focusing primarily on popular and jazz music. Choir students have also 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 8: Students taking this co-curricular class are provided with a balanced comprehensive study of music through the string orchestra, which develops skills in the psychomotor, cognitive, and affective domains. Instruction is designed so that students are enabled to connect, examine, imagine, define, try, extend, refine, and integrate music study into other subject areas. Ensemble and solo activities are designed to develop elements of musicianship including but not limited to: (1) tone production, (2) technical skills, (3) intonation, (4) music reading skills, (5) listening skills, (6) analyzing music, and (7) studying historically significant styles of literature. Several performances during the school year serve as a culmination of daily rehearsal and musical goals. Students must participate in performance opportunities, outside of the school day, that support and extend learning in the classroom. Requirement: Privately owned or rented instrument (the school provides basses and cellos for at-school use). At least two years of study on the instrument is recommended. Students in this class have the opportunity to participate in an extra-curricular performance group.

EXPLORATORY CLASSES

- These choices and placement are semester commitments.
- Music students choose either a semester of General Art or PLTW.
- Students choosing Art as their Fine Art should choose PLTW.
- All students are scheduled for PE/Health.

ART GENERAL 8 - SEMESTER COURSE: This 8th Grade Fine Art class is a more basic and focused version of the year long course. 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 the 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 8:

ENGINEERING, ROBOTICS & INNOVATION – SEMESTER COURSE:

In **8th Grade PLTW**, students expand their engineering skills while exploring future careers and dream jobs. Students design and 3D print custom projects, then learn automation and robotics by programming motors, sensors, and robots. The course ends with a robot drag race competition focused on teamwork, problem-solving, and innovation.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 1- SEMESTER COURSE: Through the use of movement, students will learn and 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. The student will examine and evaluate their own patterns of behavior through self-assessment. **This class is for one (1) high school PE credit and transcript grade which is an Indiana graduation requirement.**