7th Grade Encore Elective Course Descriptions (60 Minutes, Every Other Day)

In seventh grade, your student will attend an **Encore Elective** class of their choice every other day for 60 minutes and an **E/I Elective** class of their choice every other day for 30 minutes, plus a 60-minute **Friday Elective**. Elective classes rotate with Library, Computer Science, and PE which all seventh graders take.

Band

7th Grade Band students at MRIS will explore and perform more challenging music refining the fundamentals of the instrument. This level of music will encourage higher intellect, cross-curricular support, learning the pursuit of excellence in music and have that transfer to life skills. Much attention is given to LEADERSHIP development. Grades 2, 3, and sometimes 4 music is explored, learned, and performed. First-year band students in 7th grade are required to register for the 30-minute E/I Instrumental Practice class, which allows for everyday music instruction. Any student joining band in the 7th grade for the first time, having missed 5th and 6th grade band will need private lessons on their instrument to catch up with the more experienced students, and will have the beginning instrument choices of flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone or percussion. While a beginner will always take both the 60-minute Encore Band class AND the 30-minute E/I Instrumental Practice class, ALL 7th grade band students are highly encouraged to enroll in both classes for the advancement of the students' musicianship and our band program. The hour-long Encore band class will meet three times weekly.

Orchestra

In 7th grade orchestra, students develop the skills to prepare them to participate in Junior Orchestra Clinic. These skills include improved sight-reading, more advanced tone production, and development of more advanced shifting to encompass all of the 2-octave major scales. At this level, students are learning most of their techniques through concert repertoire and have more opportunities to perform. While a beginner will always take both the 60-minute Encore Orchestra class AND the 30-minute E/I Instrumental Practice class, ALL 7th grade orchestra students are highly encouraged to enroll in both classes for the advancement of the students' musicianship and our program. The hour-long Encore Orchestra class will meet three times weekly. 7th Grade Orchestra students will also have the opportunity to be in the Chamber Orchestra program which meets after school on Thursdays. More information will be given out at the beginning of the school year.

Chorus/Drama

This dynamic course blends vocal performance with theatrical creativity. Students build confidence as they learn foundational singing techniques, music theory basics, harmonization, and ensemble performance skills. In drama, they explore acting, character development, improvisation, and stage presence through hands-on activities and scene work. The class emphasizes teamwork, self-expression, and communication, culminating in a final performance that showcases both their musical and dramatic growth. The 2026–2027 musical will be *Matilda*!

Art

Artists in seventh grade will be studying "Art Through the Ages" while using a variety of media. Be ready to create art inspired by different time periods from prehistoric through contemporary times.

STEM

In this automation and robotics class, students learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, automation, and computer control systems. Students find solutions to various challenges using the Vex robotics platform by designing, building, and programming multiple mechanisms. An engineering notebook is used to document and capture their ideas and showcase their creative solutions.

7th Grade Encore E/I Elective Course Descriptions (30 Minutes, Every Other Day)

Instrumental Practice – First Year Band or Orchestra students are required to take this class.

Band or **Orchestra** students choosing this class must also be registered for Band or Orchestra for their 60-minute Encore Elective class. Instrumental Practice class is an opportunity to commit to a higher skill level and prepare band students for wind ensemble, junior band clinic, explore jazz, and for orchestra students to prepare for chamber orchestra, and explore alternative styles (fiddle, jazz). All band or orchestra students are highly encouraged to enroll in these classes for the advancement of the students' musicianship. The E/I Instrumental Practice Class will meet three times weekly.

Art - Project-based

In this class we will create art focused on the Principles of Design. Artists will learn how to consider and create movement, balance, proportions, and emphasis in their artwork.

Creative Music

This interactive course introduces students to the basics of piano, guitar, and ukulele. They learn tuning, essential chords, strumming or fingering techniques, and foundational music theory. Students play simple songs on guitar and ukulele while exploring chord structures and strumming patterns. This class builds confidence and musicianship through hands-on learning with three popular instruments.

Leadworthy

The goal of this course is to inspire, challenge, and encourage students to be leaders in the school and the community. Leadworthy II students will continue to develop critical skills such as personal responsibility, communication, and decision-making skills. Students will be given many opportunities to apply their leadership skills that will stretch them out of their comfort zones. Students will spend many days out of the classroom serving in different capacities around the school. If you would like to take this course and did not participate in Leadworthy I, you must submit a completed point sheet to Mr. Miller by February 9th. Point sheets are available in the STEM room and will be evaluated based on academic effort and behavior.

7th Grade Encore Elective Course Descriptions (60 Minutes, FRIDAYS)

Skyline Creators: Drone Coding and 3D Architecture

Get ready to bring your ideas to life in this thrilling STEM adventure! In the first semester, you'll learn to code and pilot drones to tackle real-world challenges, mastering the skies with your problem-solving skills. During the second semester, you'll become an architect and designer, creating a fully furnished, 3D-printed two-story house complete with furniture and decorations. From the skies to the design lab, this course is all about innovation, creativity, and hands-on learning!

Choir

The choir is the musical voice of Montgomery Ridge! Students will perform in the Veterans Day assembly, share Christmas music with the community, participate in Spring Sing, and have the opportunity to participate in our school musical… Matilda!

Max Flight Motions

The design of this course focuses on various types of movement to improve strength, flexibility, agility, and skills through a wide range of physical challenges. Students will be presented with multiple opportunities to experience game play at an increased pace while developing a more extensive understanding of activity-specific skills and strategies.

Fiber Arts and Photography

This class will spend the fall semester practicing the rich history of fiber arts. Learn how to sew and mend, felting, and cross stitch! In the spring, we will learn how to take professional looking photographs by studying the parts of a camera, elements of photography, and photography composition.

Eagle Assist

Discover the joy of making a difference in this hands-on service course! Students will have the opportunity to give back to our school by serving in various roles around the school, such as helping in the CDC classroom, supporting technology needs, providing custodial support, mentoring younger students, and working as classroom assistants. Periodic trips to Foothills Elementary School will offer additional opportunities to extend your impact beyond our campus. To enroll, students must submit a completed point sheet to the office by February 9th. Point sheets are available in the office and will be evaluated based on academic effort and behavior.