

Holmes Middle School

Course Selection Process, Descriptions and Deadlines

This is an exciting time of year for your child. Making informed decisions about next year is important for your child's educational journey. If you have any concerns or questions about classes or accessing the form, don't hesitate to reach out to your counselor: **Sean Minikin (Counselor) Email: Sean.minikin@d11.org Phone: 328-3807. Please complete the form as soon as possible so your requests can be considered.**

Course Selection Process

1. **Review Courses:** Guardians and students should review the available course listings together.
2. **Online Form:** Course selections must be made using the online form. Guardians will receive an email with a link to this form. **Alternate Access:** The form can also be found on the Holmes Counseling web page.
3. **Students will need their Student ID Number found on their ID badges to complete the form.**

Important Scheduling Considerations The course selection process is crucial in determining the classes offered in the upcoming academic year. **Students and parents should understand that while they may indicate interest in various courses, specific elective classes will only be scheduled based on sufficient student demand and available teaching staff.** This means that not all requested classes are guaranteed, and final course offerings will depend on overall enrollment and resource availability.

REQUIRED CORE COURSES

Language Arts
Math 7
Science

Adv. Language Arts
Adv. Math 8 – Pre Algebra
History – Eastern Hemisphere

Double Adv. – Algebra

You will need to select your Language Arts and Math Levels -typically math is one step up from what you are taking this year. All students will be enrolled in Science and History automatically.

Advanced class placement considers multiple factors such as student and parent input, test scores, and teacher recommendations. Advanced math allows students to work at a higher grade level, while advanced Language Arts provides a more challenging learning environment with more rigorous coursework and expectations.

FULL YEAR ELECTIVES:

Students who select a year-long course are expected to commit to the entire academic year.

All music students are required to participate in scheduled performances as an integral part of their coursework. These performances may include school concerts, community events, and potentially state music contests or festivals.

Concert Band 7/8

Concert Band offers students the opportunity to develop musical understanding and appreciation through instrumental performance. Students will learn to read music and explore various musical styles and techniques.

Jazz Band (7th Grade only – Must tryout)

This advanced ensemble focuses on instrumental jazz performance. Instrumentation includes saxophone, trumpet, trombone, piano, bass, electric guitar, and drum set. Students will develop advanced musical skills in jazz performance and style.

Intermediate Orchestra (7th Grade only)

Intermediate Orchestra provides students with opportunities to develop musical skills through string instrument performance. Students will explore various musical genres and techniques while enhancing their musical understanding and appreciation.

Advanced Orchestra 7/8 – Invitation Only

This provides students with opportunities to develop musical skills through string instrument performance. Students will explore various musical genres and techniques while enhancing their musical understanding and appreciation.

Intermediate Choir 7/6

Students learn fundamental choral singing techniques, music theory, ear training, sight-reading, and musical terminology. The course aims to develop vocal skills and appreciation for choral music performances.

SEMESTER ELECTIVE CLASSES (2 Quarters)

Students will be scheduled in 4 of these classes (unless they are in a Music class- then they will only take 2) – you will be asked to pick your top 4 preferences.

Adventure Education

This is an active, hands-on outdoor learning experience that blends science, recreation, and teamwork. Students will explore the natural world through activities that may include geology investigations, environmental science, outdoor recreation, and guided exploration.

Physical Education 7 – MOST STUDENTS WILL HAVE THIS CLASS

This program aims to enhance students' physical competence, health-related fitness, self-esteem, and enjoyment of physical activity, promoting lifelong fitness. Activities include new fitness concepts, resistance training, fitness testing, and team and individual sports. Students may purchase uniforms if they don't have one from the previous year.

Intermediate Family & Consumer Sciences A (FCS)

This course focuses on developing personal management skills through practical applications. Topics include personality and character traits, building positive relationships, foods and nutrition, meal management skills, child development with a focus on babysitting, and a sewing and textile unit. Seventh-grade students learn and develop basic skills while creating an apron. Some supplies may be required.

Encounter with the Visual Arts 1

Students explore advanced techniques in drawing, painting, printmaking, and sculpture. The course emphasizes creative solutions to design problems in both two- and three-dimensional artworks. Cultural and appreciative aspects of art are incorporated through art criticism, art history, and aesthetics.

PLTW Design and Modeling (DM) - Wood Shop

This hybrid course combines Project Lead the Way curriculum with woodshop skills. The first half focuses on STEM, applying the design process to solve problems creatively. Students learn to communicate design ideas through sketches and models, simulating authentic situations. The second half applies these lessons to fabricate and design projects in the Holmes Woodshop.

PLTW CS Innovators

Students explore the history and development of automation and robotics, learning about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Using a robotics platform, they design, build, and program solutions to real-world problems. The course emphasizes programming in the physical world, challenging students to use sensors and actuators to develop interactive systems.

Drama Techniques

In our middle school Theatre Arts program, students will explore the exciting world of performance, creativity, and self-expression. Through a progressive three-year curriculum, students will develop essential theatrical skills, build confidence, and learn the fundamental aspects of drama and performance.