# Related Arts Course Descriptions:

**6th Grade Band:** Welcome to 6th Grade Beginning Band! This exciting course is designed for students who have never played in a band before and are eager to explore the world of music. Through engaging lessons, students will learn the fundamentals of playing a musical instrument, including proper technique, music reading, and teamwork within an ensemble setting.

Throughout the year, students will develop their musical skills while fostering a love for performance. The band will prepare for two to three concerts, providing opportunities to showcase their progress and share their music with family and friends. Join us in creating a vibrant musical community and discovering the joy of playing in a band!

**7th Grade Band:** Welcome to 7th Grade Band! This course is designed for students who are entering their second year of playing a band instrument. Building on the foundational skills acquired in the previous year, students will deepen their understanding of music theory, enhance their technical abilities, and explore a diverse repertoire of musical styles.

As part of a collaborative ensemble, students will develop essential skills in teamwork and communication while preparing for four to five performances throughout the year. These concerts provide a fantastic opportunity to showcase their growth and talent. Join us in continuing your musical journey, making lasting friendships, and experiencing the joy of making music together!

**8th Grade Band:** Welcome to the 8th Grade Band, also known as the OCMS Wind Ensemble! This advanced ensemble is designed for students who have at least two years of band experience and are ready to elevate their musical skills. Throughout the year, students will engage with a variety of challenging repertoire, focusing on musicality, technique, and ensemble performance.

The OCMS Wind Ensemble performs numerous times throughout the year, showcasing their talent in concerts and community events. In addition to these performances, students will have the exciting opportunity to participate in an overnight field trip that includes a band competition. This experience fosters camaraderie among members and allows students to grow as musicians in a competitive setting. Join us for an unforgettable year of music-making, teamwork, and personal growth!

**Jazz Band:** Welcome to the OCMS Jazz Band, a dynamic ensemble made up of both 7th and 8th grade musicians! This advanced group is designed for students who are currently enrolled in

their grade-level band class. Jazz Band offers an exciting opportunity for students to expand their musical skills by exploring the vibrant world of jazz.

Throughout the year, students will dive into a variety of jazz styles, focusing on improvisation, swing rhythms, ensemble balance, and personal expression. The OCMS Jazz Band will showcase their talents at several concerts and community events, bringing their music to a wider audience. This experience fosters teamwork and allows students to grow as jazz musicians in a fun and competitive setting. Join us for a year of swinging rhythms, collaboration, and musical growth!

**6th Grade Choir:** Students will learn how to sing, read, and perform music in multiple different styles, languages, and time periods! This will be showcased through concert performances throughout the school year and on field trips. There are also A LOT of extra optional opportunities through choir as well such as All-State Choir and the school musical! **No experience needed!**

**7th Grade Choir:** Students will continue to learn how to sing, read, and perform music in multiple different styles, languages, and time periods! This will be showcased through concerts throughout the school year and on field trips. There are also A LOT of extra optional opportunities through choir as well such as All-State Choir and the school musical! No experience needed but students from the 6th grade choir last year are encouraged to stay in choir all 3 years of middle school to go on our 8th grade choir field trip!

**8th Grade Choir:** Students will learn at a higher and more advanced level of how to sing, read, and perform music in multiple different styles, languages, and time periods! This will be showcased through concerts throughout the school year. There are also A LOT of extra optional opportunities through choir as well such as All-State Choir and the school musical! Students have to be in 7th grade choir the year before to be allowed to join 8th grade choir and go on our field trip!

**Solo Vocal Techniques Class:** This class is offered to 7th and 8th grade students only. Students will learn how to sing INDIVIDUALLY and in small groups! This class will teach students how to stand properly to sing, breathe correctly, act out songs to encourage telling the story, translate lyrics in foreign languages to fully understand what they are singing, and project and build your solo voice! This class was developed to enhance confidence and to be able to sing songs at a higher level than choir class. Some sort of singing experience is needed to enroll in this course. If you are NOT in choir please talk to Mrs. Harrison if you are interested in signing up for this class. This class is used to showcase choir throughout the year as well!

**Musical Theater:** This class is the only way to be in our school's musical every year! Students will learn the basics of theater; how to act, which includes speaking, emotions, movement, and

the basics of technical theater, which includes backstage, lighting, sound, costumes, and hair/make-up. Students will then audition and be cast in our school's musical, each year the show is different! No experience needed! This class is open to 6th, 7th and 8th graders but all 6th graders need to get approval from Mrs. Harrison first. There are after school requirements for this class as well.

**General Music:** This class is designed for any students not in band or choir to experience music in middle school. Students will explore the basics of musical elements, ukulele, singing, and bucket drumming throughout this class.

**Principles of Business**: Students will explore the major aspects of the business world, including banking, personal finance, marketing, and economics. Principles of business is conversation and project-based, with frequent opportunities to be creative and interact with peers.

**Media Arts:** In this exciting and creative course, students will explore the world of media arts, including photography, video production, graphic design, and digital storytelling. Throughout the semester, students will learn how to use various digital tools to create their own visual and multimedia projects. They'll gain hands-on experience with editing software, camera techniques, and design principles, while also developing critical thinking skills to analyze how media shapes our world.

**6th Grade Health:** Sixth grade health builds the foundation that 7th and 8th grade health is based on. In 6th grade students will learn about the human body systems, basics of nutrition and about social, mental and emotional health.

**7th and 8th Grade Health:** 7th and 8th grade health functions on a rotating curriculum. Classes will cover drugs, alcohol, and tobacco and diseases one year, and safety and first aid and nutrition the following year. This class also incorporates principles of life skills such as cursive writing, sewing and cooking.

**Design Thinking:** Students will explore the *Design Thinking Process* steps and put the process into action through prototyping and testing using small projects. Students will also explore CAD and other design programs resulting in finished products. Students will explore the basics of 3D printers, laser engraving/cutting, and other construction methods.

**Art:** Students will learn about the elements of art and principles of design through hands-on creative projects, progressing from 2D drawing and painting mediums to collage and 3D sculpture. These exercises are designed to teach students visual literacy and how to focus and

listen, think creatively, solve problems, learn from mistakes, share thoughts, and express feelings.

**Physical Education (PE):** Middle School Physical Education focuses on promoting lifelong fitness, teamwork, and a positive attitude toward physical activity. Students will engage in a variety of activities, including individual and team sports, fitness training, and recreational games, designed to enhance physical, social, and emotional well-being. Emphasis is placed on skill development, understanding game strategies, building sportsmanship, and fostering healthy competition. Classes will incorporate national and state physical education standards, encouraging students to improve their overall fitness levels, set personal goals, and develop a foundation for an active lifestyle.

**Spanish:** Students will be introduced to a variety of Spanish skills in Exploring Spanish. This class lasts for one grading period. Students will listen to stories, illustrate to demonstrate understanding, sing songs, dance, learn about the history and culture of selected Spanish speaking countries. All activities are created with the intention of students staying in the target language at a level that is comprehensible.

**Paxton Patterson Lab**: Students will work in pairs on modules that give them real world experiences. These modules will last 10-20 days each beginning with learning basic terminology of the module and progressing to the hands-on learning experience. Opportunities include CAD, Criminalistics, Engineering, Media Production, Intro to Child Development, Nursing, Intro to Health Science Careers, Emergency Medical Technician Environment and Ecology, Home Maintenance Systems, Alternative Energy, Design & Marketing, Digital Manufacturing and Robotics.