BRIER TERRACE MIDDLE SCHOOL
8TH GRADE ELECTIVES COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Symphonic Band
(Pre-req 7th grade Concert Band). We continue to have fun playing even more fun music that gets more exciting and advanced. This class performs at school-wide assemblies, evening concerts, and has many field trip opportunities throughout the year. You know why you're here!! Of course you want to keep going! **(Year-Long)**

Symphonic Orchestra
(Pre-req 7th grade Orchestra) This class is available to 8th grade orchestra students. Students have the opportunity to perform exciting music while improving on their instruments. This class includes field trips, school-wide assembly and evening performances. Students develop skills that allow them to prepare and excel in future music opportunities- including high school music groups of all kinds! **(Year-Long)**

STEAM Applications
This is a more advanced year long STEAM course for 8th graders who are excited about engineering and technology and interested in leveling up! You will develop technical skills in safely operating hand and power tools for more complex building of CO2 powered vehicles, furniture, and catapults. You will make a robotic car that you will program to drive autonomously, a wind turbine that generates voltage in a wind tunnel, a solid fuel rocket that will fly hundreds of feet, and enter a laser cut mousetrap powered car competition. Other projects include balsa bridges, gliders, video production, soldering circuit boards, laser cut LED light stands, and many more cool experiences. More complex Computer Aided Design (CAD) programs will be introduced in this class, and time will be taken to connect you to career opportunities in engineering and design fields. By the end of this course you will have had an unforgettable experience as an engineer and designer! **(Year-Long)**

Spanish 1
In first year Spanish you will learn the foundations of the language that include understanding, speaking, questioning, reading, and writing in a culturally and language rich environment. This course encourages grammatical correctness by modeling correct grammar through listening and conversation. Topics covered are greetings, everyday activities, places, common items (e.g., school supplies, clothes), and present and progressive tenses. The course will be assessed through a variety of methods such as dialogues, skits, short presentations, tests and quizzes, daily assignments, and projects.
(First year language may not be the most appropriate placement for Native and Heritage speakers. For appropriate placement, please see the instructor before registering). **(Year-Long)**

Concert Choir
This course is an elective for 7th and 8th graders who love to sing, with no prior experience required. The choir performs various music styles (traditional, pop, movie, jazz, etc.) at concerts, assemblies, and festivals, while building confidence, teamwork, creativity, and music skills. **(Year-Long)**

Art
Experience new ways to express yourself in art. Open to 7th/8th graders who are interested in hands-on learning and would like to create high quality, exhibition-worthy projects in drawing, painting, and 3-D art. Whatever your skill level, you will enjoy how your talent develops. **(Semester-Long)** **(Fee: $20)**

Foods
The Foods class promotes practical learning and life-long skills in areas of nutrition, basic cooking skills, meal planning and preparation. Students will prepare a meal for their families as their final project. Working in teams, students prepare a variety of foods. This class will bring out the chef in anyone.
(**Semester-Long)** **(Fee: $20)**

Intro to Coding
Our Coding class is designed to introduce middle school students to the exciting world of coding and computer programming. Through a hands-on approach, students will learn fundamental concepts of coding, develop problem-solving skills, and gain confidence in their ability to create technology. Students will learn the basics of writing code, understanding algorithms, and debugging errors. No prior coding experience is required. **(Semester-Long)**

STEAM Fundamentals
In this course, you will be introduced to engineering and design concepts through creative hands-on build projects. You will learn how to safely operate hand and power tools to design and race your own wood dragster car, use 3d printers to make keychains and other objects, run a laser cutter to make cell phone stands and tokens, and create an air launched rocket that can fly a full football field. You will also learn to use Computer Aided Design programs to make 3D models for characters, tools, and toys, build a balsa structure that will hold hundreds of pounds in a crushing machine, create an architectural model of a dream house, and work as a team on a robotics build that you will code to operate. You will feel like a real engineer in this course and it will be the highlight of your year! **(Semester-Long)**