

ELECTIVE OPTIONS

ART

This course introduces students to various art mediums and techniques while exploring the elements of art and principles of design. Through hands-on projects and art history connections, students develop a strong foundation and appreciation for their work using materials like pencils, colored pencils, and watercolors.

Drama

This course introduces students to theater fundamentals, including history, terminology, improv, and scene work. Students build confidence performing monologues and group scenes while developing acting skills. Emphasizing creativity and collaboration, the course culminates in a full play production, providing hands-on stage performance experience.

Intro to Photo

This course introduces photography basics, including composition, lighting, and camera functions. Students explore creative techniques, digital editing, and visual storytelling while capturing compelling images. Through hands-on projects and critiques, they develop technical skills, artistic expression, and an understanding of photography as a visual art.

Food & Nutrition

In this course, students learn basic food preparation through written and lab assignments. Key topics include nutrition, kitchen safety, tool use, measuring, and reading recipes. Students apply their skills by preparing various dishes using the stove, oven, and microwave.

Heritage Spanish

Spanish for Heritage Speakers is designed to develop the language and literacy skills of Heritage Learners— those students who speak and understand Spanish in the home with some fluency and have some or limited skills in reading and writing Spanish.

Media Arts

This course introduces students to digital media creation, including graphic design, photography, video production, and basic animation. Students explore storytelling, editing, and visual communication through hands-on projects. Emphasizing creativity and technical skills, the course provides a foundation for media production and digital expression.

STEM Shop

This course introduces wood and metal construction, focusing on drafting, tool use, measuring, and shop safety. Students create and follow project plans while developing essential skills. Competency is tested in safety and tool use.

WEB Leadership

WEB Leadership 8 is a yearlong elective for 8th graders that uses the Boomerang Project’s curriculum to develop confident, service-minded leaders. Following a selective application process, students receive training in empathy, communication, and peer support to foster a diverse and inclusive school culture. As official WEB Leaders, they mentor 7th graders and lead campus activities that strengthen student engagement and community connection.

Yearbook

This course is for students who enjoy writing, photography, and creating the school yearbook. Students must be motivated, dependable, and willing to participate in school activities. Responsibilities include photography, interviewing, editing, and advertising. Participation requires teacher approval, a signed contract, and taking photos during lunch or after school.

MUSIC ELECTIVE OPTIONS

Beginning Guitar

Students learn basic chords, strumming, fingerpicking, and music reading while exploring various styles. No experience required. Guitars provided for classroom use.

Concert Choir

This class is for beginning and intermediate singers, focusing on vocal skills, music notation, and choral singing in various styles. Daily participation and performance attendance are required.

Concert Band

This ensemble features woodwinds, brass, and percussion, performing concert and popular music. Students develop musical and technical skills while preparing for concerts and the District Music Festival.

Chamber Orchestra

Candidates must demonstrate exceptional skills and are selected by staff through auditions on a violin, viola, cello, or bass. Students are required to take their music home for study. Attendance at all performances is mandatory.

Jazz Ensemble Band

An advanced ensemble performing jazz, big band, rock, Latin, and pop. Includes saxophones, trombones, trumpets, piano, bass, and drums. Performs at concerts, community events, and festivals. Enrollment in Symphonic or Concert Band required. Zero-period, year-long course. Audition and instructor approval required.

Mariachi

Explore the vibrant tradition of mariachi music in this performance-based class open to all experience levels. Students will master instruments like the guitar, vihuela, and trumpet while developing skills in rhythm, harmony, and cultural history. Participation in all scheduled evening performances is required for all members.

Orchestra

This performance class is for beginners and those preparing for advanced orchestra. Elementary experience is preferred but not required. Students must attend all performances and practice at home.

Symphonic Band

This advanced ensemble of woodwinds, brass, and percussion performs concert band literature and popular music. Students participate in multiple concerts and festivals. Admission is by audition or instructor approval.

TWO-YEAR ELECTIVE OPTIONS

Two-year electives require commitment, offering a continuous learning experience. Students develop skills over two years, gaining deeper knowledge and preparing for advanced opportunities.

STEM Pathway Elective

The STEM Pathway is a two-year program for students interested in science, technology, engineering, and math. Admission is through a lottery, with eligibility criteria required. STEM Pathway elective teachers incorporate Project Lead the Way STEM projects to engage students in hands-on, real-world problem-solving, fostering critical thinking, collaboration, and innovation. *Must be enrolled in the STEM Pathway to take this elective.*

Lottery Application Required

STEM Hybrid

This two-year elective introduces students to STEM fields and career pathways through Project Lead the Way Gateway units. Students engage in hands-on projects, research, and discussions that build skills in computer science, engineering, and biomedical science. Through practical applications, collaboration, and problem-solving, students develop critical thinking and communication skills essential for success in high school, college, and future careers. *Open to all students.*

Spanish

This two-year course introduces students to the Spanish language and the diverse cultures of Spanish-speaking countries. Students develop foundational skills in reading, writing, speaking, and comprehension through vocabulary, grammar, and syntax lessons. The curriculum mirrors Spanish I at the high school level, and students who earn a “B” or better may qualify for Spanish II in ninth grade. Strong study skills, independence, and collaboration are essential for success in this rigorous course.