7th and 8th GRADE ELECTIVES

Visual Art Concepts/Techniques In this dynamic and hands-on art course, students will dive into the exciting world of visual arts, experiencing drawing, painting, ceramics (clay), printmaking, and more! They will create both 2D and 3D pieces to take home at the end of the semester in a portfolio that encapsulates their body of original work. This class encourages students to get out of their seats and use hands-on tools to express their important ideas, promoting health and wellbeing through kinesthetic projects. Students will learn to speak their minds through specific visual art skills, freeing their minds and souls. This course also teaches important job skills, preparing students for future opportunities. Art plays a crucial role in today's world by fostering creativity, critical thinking, and cultural appreciation. Current research shows that engaging with art enhances brain function, improves memory, and reduces stress. Come dive into the art world to share your voice in an original and authentic way, and discover the power of creativity

Digital Media/Video/Photography In this course students focus on photography, video, animation, graphic design, and digital art. They have access to DSLR cameras, camcorders, drawing tablets, audio and lighting gear and the entire Adobe Creative Suite and use these industry-standard tools to aid in the creative process every day. Students work individually and collaboratively for digital design and storytelling. They learn and practice effective workflow strategies to manage their creative projects from start to finish.

Animation, Art and AI (Exploring Technology A) In this course students are introduced to the exciting world of computer science through a variety of creative and hands-on activities. Students will learn the basics of programming by creating animations, designing video games, and exploring 3D design and modeling. Students will also have the opportunity to bring their designs to life with 3D printing. Additionally, the course introduces students to Artificial Intelligence (AI) concepts and applies them to simple projects.

Robotics, Engineering, and Programming (Exploring Technology B) This course takes students deeper into the world of robotics by focusing on vehicle-based systems. In this course, students will design, build and program robotic vehicles, using block-based programming skills to bring their creations to life and solve complex challenges. Throughout the course, students will work on a series of exciting classroom challenges, applying engineering principles and problem-solving techniques to design vehicles that can navigate, complete tasks, and compete with their peers. This course offers hands-on, team-oriented environment where students will develop their skills in robotics, programming, and engineering, preparing them for more advanced robotics in high school and beyond.

Lifelong Fitness This lifelong fitness class will be focusing on activities one can do throughout one's life. Students can expect to do a variety of activities like *making their own nutritious snacks*, *nature walks*, *mindful activities*, *stress reduction, light weight training* and *yoga*. The goal of this course is to provide students with an understanding of the basics for maintaining their overall physical and mental health throughout their life and to be a relaxing break in a busy day. This class will be designed for 7th and 8th grade students who have already taken or been scheduled in a core PE class and would enjoy some additional fitness.

Advanced Fitness Training This is a high-level fitness class, meant for students who really enjoy exercise. They will learn rules and fundamental techniques for a variety of fitness activities—The course will include body weight exercises, weight training technique, cardio endurance, muscular strength and endurance activities. Students will be expected to be ready to exercise at a high level every day.

Team Sports Competitive Team Sports is a competitive sports class that will focus on a variety of lifelong team-based sports (i.e. soccer, volleyball, etc.). This class will focus primarily on building a competitive mindset, implementing game strategies, and improving on required core skills to play the game. Requirements for this class include having a competitive mindset, basic understanding of game play and willingness to participate in **high-level** team-based activities with a positive attitude.

Intermediate Band (Year Long) Intermediate Band at Chief Kanim is open to any band student who has completed at least one year of instrumental instruction in band. Students in Intermediate Band have the option of starting new instruments such as bassoon, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, and tuba. In Intermediate Band, we continue to build upon the fundamentals learned in Beginning Band, start adding higher level skills, and begin to work on more challenging music for concerts. Students in Intermediate band will perform in two concerts in the Mount Si High School Performing Arts Center this upcoming school year and take a fun trip together in the spring!

7th & 8th Grade Choir (Year Long) 7th and 8th Grade Choir is a performance-based class that continues to build on fundamentals of singing and musicianship. Students will focus on developing healthy vocal techniques as their voices change, reading music, and singing in 3- and 4-part harmony. 7th and 8th Grade Choir will perform a wide variety of music at concerts throughout the year, including songs from around the world, songs from movies/musicals, jazz-inspired styles, and pop songs. Although most students in this group have taken choir in 6th grade, anyone is welcome to sign up for this course, even if you have no prior experience. Students in this class have the opportunity to go caroling in the winter and take a field trip in the spring. In addition, all 8th grade choir students (along with 8th grade band students) can attend an overnight field trip during a weekend in April.

ELECTIVES BY TEACHER SELECTION

Advanced Choir (7th & 8th) **Must be signed up for Choir 7/8 to be considered for the course. Audition required)** is an advanced course for 7th and 8th grade students. Auditions are held in the spring for the following school year Advanced Choir performs at the regular CKMS choir concerts, as well as several additional events throughout the year. This group sings mainly advanced music but also learns some other styles. Students will continue to develop healthy vocal technique as their voices change, read advanced music, sing in 4- and 5-part harmony, and improvise (scatting). Advanced Choir students will have the opportunity to go caroling in the winter and take field trips throughout the year. In addition, all 8th grade choir students (along with 8th grade band students) can attend an overnight field trip during a weekend in April

Advanced Band (7th & 8th Grade) Advanced Band is the premiere concert band at CKMS and is open to any student who has completed two years of instrumental instruction. Alternatively, a student who shows very advanced skills after just one year of instruction may receive a special invitation from Mr. Talbott joined the Advanced Band. Students in Advanced Band shift their focus from developing fundamental skills to working on high level music for performance in many concerts and festivals throughout the year. The Advanced Band will perform in two concerts at the MSHS PAC, travel to one regional band festival, take a tour of the local elementary schools to recruit incoming band students, and can look forward to a fun trip at the end of the year!

Hawk TV (7th & 8th Grade) **Must be signed up for Digital Media to be considered for the course** students will dive into the world of video production, using industry-standard tools such as cameras, microphones, and lighting equipment. Each week, students will collaborate to create a dynamic episode that highlights the latest happenings and events at our school. From scripting and filming to editing and broadcasting, Hawk TV offers a hands-on experience that fosters creativity, teamwork, and technical skills.

Yearbook (7th & 8th Grade) Middle School Yearbook is a high-level, production-based elective designed for self-motivated students who are ready to make a positive contribution to their school community. In this course, students collaboratively produce the school's annual yearbook by covering events, taking photographs, writing captions, designing layouts, and managing deadlines. The class emphasizes real-world job skills used in fields such as graphic design, photography, journalism, and media production, and students will use their experience to write a professional résumé that highlights the technical, creative, and workplace skills they develop. Each day, students learn and apply one new piece of professional terminology—such as positive and negative space, rule of thirds, contrast, focal point, and professionalism—directly to their work. Students are expected to fully participate in the creative process, including brainstorming, drafting, receiving feedback, revising, and editing their original ideas. Success in this course requires responsibility, collaboration, openness to critique, and pride in producing a high-quality publication that represents the school community.

Leadership (7TH & 8TH Grade) The Leadership class is focused on teaching students a variety of skills to analyze and enhance their character traits. It offers students the opportunity to develop project planning skills and improve in areas such as mentoring, integrity, problem-solving, working with students from diverse backgrounds, attitude, individual and group responsibility, and working with adults. Students will dialogue and reflect on ways to improve their community, innovate and implement new ideas, lead and follow, collaborate, give advice, and create SMART goals. The course essential questions are: How does Ubuntu ("I am, because you are") play out in our everyday lives at Chief Kanim Middle School? How can we improve the individual and communal lives of the people at our school to promote a domino effect of Ubuntu? This course aims to empower students to become effective leaders who can positively impact their school and community.

ELECTIVES BY APPLICATION-8TH GRADE ONLY

Spanish (8th Grade Only) Spanish 1 is a high school credited class that provides a strong foundation of vocabulary and grammar for students who have never taken Spanish before and prepares them for taking Spanish 2 at the high school level. It teaches students how to conjugate verbs in the present tense, and it teaches vocabulary on the following topics: the classroom/school, family members and how to describe them, sports and hobbies, travel, how to express likes and dislikes, and more. Students who are successful in this course spend time reviewing and studying outside of class. This class is not designed for heritage speakers (students who speak Spanish at home with their family).

Advanced Programming and Innovation (Exploring Technology C) (8th Grade Only) PREREQUISTE EXPLORING TECHNOLGY A OR B In this course students take their computer science skills to the next level by engaging in advanced, student-led projects that combine creativity, critical thinking, and technical expertise. Building on the foundations of animation, AI, and robotics from CSE A and B, students will dive deeper into programming languages and tackle complex challenges in coding, engineering, and design. Students will have the freedom to propose and develop their own projects, whether it's designing and programming a custom video game, building a fully autonomous robotic system, or programming-based art projects. Along the way, they'll learn advanced programming concepts, algorithm design, and explore real-world applications of computer science. Collaboration, innovation, and presentation skills will be key as students share their creations and ideas in a supportive, team-oriented environment. This course is ideal for students who are passionate about technology and ready to take on challenging, self-directed projects

Office TA -Teacher Assistant (8th Grade only) Being a TA is all about helping our school run smoothly. We need responsible students that are willing to assist our staff. Students will be expected to efficiently perform tasks assigned to them, and ***if there isn't work or tasks to be done the remaining time is to be treated as study hall.***