Ryan Middle School Elective Course Catalog

Art + Music	**Career Technical Education**	**Physical Education**
		(Students must take 3)
___Beginning Band*	___ 3D Printing	___Dance*
___Concert Band*	___Engineering	___Swimming*
___Beginning Orchestra*	___Architecture	___Weight Lifting*
___Concert Orchestra*	___Animation	___Team Sports*
___Symphony/Ensemble*	___Photoshop	___Flexibility and Movement*
___Choir*	___Video Effects	___Lifetime Fitness*
___Painting*	___Intro to Coding	___Traditional PE*
___Drawing*	___Baking*	
___Sculpting*	___Cooking*	
___History of Art	___ Intro to Baking (6th Only)	

Required Electives:

___Health - 6th

___Health - 7th

___Health - 8th

*- indicates the class is repeatable

??? Possible additions with teacher support - Drama, Speech, Debate, Journalism...?

Art + Music

Painting: Students will explore watercolor and acrylic techniques in a fun, skill-building environment, also building up their knowledge in terms of the 7 elements of art. Each session focuses on different painting fundamentals—color mixing, layering, texture, and composition—helping students develop confidence and creativity. Perfect for beginners and experienced painters alike.

Drawing: Students will refine their skills in pencil, colored pencil, pen, and ink. Each session explores key techniques like shading (value), line work, color, texture, and perspective, helping young artists build confidence and creativity.

Sculpting: Students will bring their ideas to life with papier-mâché and mixed media. Students will explore the seven elements of art—line, shape, form, color, value, texture, and space—while building unique 3D creations. Perfect for all skill levels.

History of Art: Students will explore multiple influential artists and movements throughout history. Through analysis and hands-on projects, young artists will create their own interpretations inspired by masterworks, deepening their understanding of technique and creativity. Perfect for all skill levels.

Beginning Band: Year-long Introductory Course.

Play awesome music, learn a cool instrument, be part of something BIG. You'll pick from flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, percussion. No experience? No problem! We start on the basics and build each skill step by step. Soon, you're playing real songs, doing concerts, and impressing friends & family. Band isn't just about music—it's about teamwork, creativity, and having fun. If you like music, want to try something new, or just be part of a group, join Band!

Concert Band: Year-Long Intermediate Course

Band, but bigger, stronger, faster! For musicians already at a high level: AT LEAST 1 year playing in middle school and a band teacher recommendation. Here, you'll master skills, play more exciting music, and be on a team that really gets people's attention. As you learn more exciting tunes and improve, Concert Band is a place to level up and be in a band that really rocks.

Beginning Orchestra: Year-long Introductory Course.

Have you ever wanted to play music that belongs in a movie, video game, or on a big stage? You choose from violin, viola, cello, or bass. If it's your first time or if you have some experience, you'll learn all about your instrument and how to play tunes from epic and dramatic, to fast and fun. Orchestra isn't just about playing notes, it's about creating something amazing as a team. You're in a group where each instrument matters and you're building a beautiful sound for our stage. Plus, we get to show off at concerts and events. If you like music, want to try something new, or just be part of a group, join Orchestra!

Concert Orchestra: Year-Long Intermediate Course

Orchestra, but bigger, better, more impressive. For musicians already playing at a high level; you need AT LEAST 1 year playing in middle school and a recommendation from your orchestra director. In Concert Orchestra, you evolve from a musician into an amazing performer. Play more exciting tunes, master your skills, and be a part of music that sounds seriously impressive.

Symphony/Ensemble: Year-Long

For Band & Orchestra players performing at a highly advanced level. We combine winds & percussion from band, with strings from orchestra into a group just like a pro orchestra. You must have AT LEAST 2 years in Band or Orchestra, or have permission from the instructor. You'll combine with other schools for epic concerts and trips that take our tunes on tour.

Choir: Year-Long

Choir is THE place to be if you want to learn how to sing, or if you want to continue mastering your current singing skills. All experience levels are welcome! Choirs work as a team in order to perform all kinds of beautiful, exciting, and fun music in all different kinds of styles including (but certainly not limited to): pop, musicals, movie, classical, folk, rock, and all kinds of songs in foreign languages! There are multiple performance opportunities throughout the year including school concerts and also large district wide performances!

Career Technical Education

3D Printing: This course provides an in-depth exploration of 3D printing, covering essential topics such as different printing technologies (e.g., FDM, SLA, SLS), material selection, design for 3D printing, and post-processing techniques. Students will gain practical knowledge through hands-on experience in using 3D printers to create functional prototypes, custom parts, and artistic designs.

Engineering: An introduction to the core principles of engineering, exploring the fundamental concepts that underpin the design, analysis, and implementation of engineering solutions. Students will gain a foundational understanding of physics, materials science, mathematics, and problem-solving techniques, preparing them for more advanced studies in specialized engineering fields.

Architecture: Explore the field of architecture, focusing on the principles of design, architectural history, and the technical aspects of building construction. Students will explore the creative process behind architectural design, from conceptualization and drafting to the use of advanced software tools. The course will also cover key topics such as structural systems, materials, environmental sustainability, and urban planning.

Animation: A comprehensive introduction to the art and science of animation. Students will dive into the foundational principles that bring characters and objects to life. The class will also provide hands-on experience with industry-standard software, focusing on Adobe Animate to learn essential skills by creating fluid motion using tweens. The course is project-based, culminating in the creation of your own animated short film, where you'll apply the 12 principles of animation to tell a story frame by frame.

Photoshop: Learn how to use Adobe Photoshop. We'll start with the fundamentals, exploring the interface, tools, and essential functions to create your own incredible images. The course is project-based, and by the end of the quarter, you'll have created a portfolio of photoshopped art that showcases your creativity and technical skills.

Video Effects: Want to be a movie star or a director? This is the class for you. Learn how to make movie magic as we learn to edit and produce our own films. Challenge the boundaries of reality with green screen, and tell stories through film in this hands on performative class.

Intro to Coding: Learn valuable skills for the future! In this beginner-friendly coding course, you'll develop logical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity. We'll cover basic programming concepts and give you hands-on experience building your own digital creations. This course also covers computer basics such as typing, shortcuts and using Google Suite.

Baking 1: **ADD DESCRIPTION**

Baking 2: **ADD DESCRIPTION**

Cooking 1: **ADD DESCRIPTION**

Cooking 2: **ADD DESCRIPTION**

Physical Education

Dance: ADD DESCRIPTION

Swimming: Instead of focusing on racing or perfect swim strokes, this elective emphasizes essential water safety and survival skills. Students will learn practical, real-life skills important in Alaska, where lakes, rivers, and coastal waters are part of everyday life. The course builds confidence, awareness, and the ability to stay safe around water year-round. To celebrate progress, students will also enjoy a dedicated Open Swim Day - a fun, supervised session where they can build comfort in the water, play safely, and spend time with classmates. 🏊 💧

Team Sports: The focus of this class is on team sports skills and development. Units will include: basketball, volleyball, racquetball, badminton, soccer, softball, floor hockey, ultimate Frisbee, and Football.

Flexibility and Movement: This elective will be almost entirely devoted to helping students improve their flexibility and balance by teaching proper yoga techniques, small-weight mat workouts, and bodyweight movements.

Traditional PE: Students will learn to apply skills to game situations involving rules, strategies, and competition dynamics. Students also learn to make knowledgeable personal choices toward becoming healthy, active individuals.

Weightlifting: This strength and conditioning class is designed to help each student improve their fitness and muscular strength. We will learn how to safely perform different lifts and how to choose scaling options appropriate to our own fitness levels. Students who take this class are

expected to have a drive to improve their fitness and a healthy growth mindset. We will be exercising 4x a week, make sure you dress appropriately and are ready to crush your workout.

Lifetime Fitness: Integrated Health & Physical Education course. Effectively merges health and physical education to underscore the essential link between physical/health literacy. This course will emphasize a positive environment with a focus on students developing and exhibiting teamwork and sportsmanship during games and activities. The primary focus is on acquiring fundamental health and physical education information while simultaneously fostering the development of healthy, active individuals through engaging in a diverse range of physical activities.