

8th Grade Elective Course Descriptions

All 8th grade electives are yearlong courses.

Choir 8

Choir is open to any student who is interested in group singing! This ensemble sings a wide variety of music literature, including jazz, pop, and classical. Choir students enhance their vocal techniques and music reading skills and become self-confident, poised performers. Students in choir have many opportunities to represent MMS in our community. Singers will participate in several performances, festivals, and field trips throughout the year, including evening concerts.

Band 8

This course requires previous experience on a band instrument or instructor approval. Students will develop in the areas of note reading, ear training, rhythm reading, advanced band techniques, and play varied and challenging music literature. Band students will participate in several performances, festivals, and field trips throughout the year, including evening concerts. School instruments will be available to students in need.

Orchestra 8

A continuation of skills learned in 7th grade orchestra, students will build their independence as musicians by furthering their development in the areas of note reading, ear training, rhythm reading, advanced string techniques and playing varied and challenging music. Students are required to participate in several performances throughout the school year, including evening performances.

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!

Journalism and Media

Students can help keep MMS students informed! In this class you will work with others to create different journalism products such as newsletters, podcasts and short reporting videos about events at our school such as sports, fundraisers, fashion, music, field trips, spirit weeks, etc. You also can report on events in our community. You will learn interviewing skills, journalistic writing and editing, plus the technology of digital layouts for newspapers, podcasts and videos. Students should be ready to work with others, learn to identify factual newsworthy pieces to share with your fellow students.

Fundamentals of Art

This year-long project-based course in visual art focuses on two dimensional mediums in the Fall Semester, and three-dimensional mediums in the Spring Semester. Some examples of materials we explore include clay, paint, digital mediums, graphite, charcoal, collage, and pastels. Students learn to communicate their ideas through visual art. Throughout the course we also learn about a variety of art historical and contemporary figures, art movements, and the role art plays in several different cultures. We explore the Elements and Principles of Art. Students build a body of work, and a portfolio. Upon successful completion of both semesters of Art 8, students will receive high school credit for this class.

Service Learning

Students must complete the Service Learning Application and submit it along with their registration forms. Students must have good attendance, thorough written response on the application, GPA of a 3.0 or higher, and no discipline history. Students need to have a positive attitude, willingness to help, and good classroom citizenship. By submitting this application students are agreeing to be assigned to any of the Service Learning positions listed below. There will be no opportunity to opt-out of a placement.

*** MDE Peer Tutoring (one semester)**

Our school has a partnership with Meadowdale Elementary (MDE) that allows our students to work as a teachers' aides and help tutor their students. Under the supervision of a teacher, tutors work one-on-one or in small groups often focusing on reading or math skills. MDE is just across the street from us so our tutors can walk over and return as a group in time for their next class.

*** MMS Peer Mentoring (one semester)**

Students provide assistance as one-to-one mentors for students with disabilities under the supervision of a classroom teacher.

*** Teacher Assistant (one semester)**

Students are assigned to a teacher, helping with tasks such as filing, sorting, organizing, copying, and making deliveries. When the teacher does not have a task, the student will be expected to do schoolwork or read.

*** Office Assistant (one semester)**

Students work in the Main Office or Counseling Office, making deliveries to classrooms, greeting and directing visitors, filing, copying, etc. When students do not have an assigned task, they are expected to do schoolwork or read.

***Library Assistant (one semester)**

Students learn the computer checkout system for books, assist students in using the computer catalog, as well as process and shelve books. You are also required to complete two book reviews which will be posted in the library.