ELECTIVE OFFERINGS FOR RISING 8TH GRADE STUDENTS
Albemarle County Public Schools

As our students progress through middle school, we design our offerings to provide opportunities for students to identify and develop personal interests.

Below is a list of all elective classes we may offer next year.

8th Grade Elective Offerings: Please think about the following course offerings and place a mark beside any of interest. You will use this to help make your decisions on SchooLinks.

_____ Art 8
_____ AVID 8
_____ Band 8
_____ Broadcast Journalism
_____ Business and Entrepreneurship
_____ Chorus 8
_____ Coding, Cyber, and IT Exploration
_____ Creative Writing
_____ Debate
_____ Drama 8
_____ French I (HS Credit)
_____ Guitar
_____ Humanities
_____ Latin I (HS Credit)
_____ Leadership Exploration
_____ Media, Arts, and Design Exploration
_____ Mixed Media Art
_____ Orchestra 8
_____ Photography
_____ Spanish for Fluent Speakers
_____ Spanish I (HS Credit)
_____ STEM Innovations
_____ Yearbook

Please note: We do our best to schedule students into their highest-ranked elective course(s); However, there are times when we are unable to do so. If we do not have enough students register for a class, we may not run it for the next school year.

----------8th Grade Course Descriptions----------

Art 8: In this course, you'll get to explore lots of different types of art! You'll learn about different cultures and art styles from around the world, which will help you appreciate art even more. You'll develop your own artistic skills and try out different activities like drawing, painting, sculpting, and crafts. As you work on these projects, you'll become better at understanding and creating art. You'll also learn how art connects to other subjects you're studying and develop your own unique artistic style. Specific course content conforms to any existing state standards for grade 8.

AVID 8: AVID is a nationally recognized program for students who have the capability to achieve in rigorous, college preparatory courses but may currently be underachieving. The AVID elective is a year long elective that provides students with academic support and motivational activities. Students must apply for AVID and meet national and local requirements for participation.

Band 8: Band courses help students develop techniques for playing brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments and their ability to perform a variety of concert band literature styles. These courses may emphasize rehearsal and performance experiences in a range of styles and also include experiences in creating and responding to music.

Broadcast Journalism: Be a part of the team that "makes the news"! This course gives students a chance to learn about making segments, including planning what stories to cover, writing scripts, operating the camera, and being a reporter. Most schools use this class to make their school-wide announcements.

Business and Entrepreneurship: This course introduces students to the exciting world of creating, owning, and launching their own business. Students will learn concepts and techniques for planning an innovative business and marketing their ideas and creations. Students design, establish, and operate a small group or class business, producing a service or product that meets an identified school or community need. Emphasis is placed on the introduction and application of business terminology, basic entrepreneurship concepts, and fundamental business principles.

Chorus 8: Chorus courses develop students' vocal skills within the context of a large choral ensemble in which they perform a variety of styles of repertoire. These courses are designed to develop students' vocal techniques and their ability to sing parts and include experiences in creating and responding to music.

Coding, Cyber, and IT Exploration: Students are introduced to the world of business using the computer as a problem-solving tool. Students engage in using computational thinking as a problem solving tool, use programming concepts and methods while creating digital artifacts, and retain their interest in computing as a relevant and exciting field. Learning opportunities are presented in ways that are active, connected, and relevant to them, and promote the perception of themselves as proactive and empowered problem solvers, creators, and innovators capable of changing the world. Collaborative learning experiences at this level prepare students to work in teams and to build supportive partnerships.

Creative Writing: Creative Writing courses offer students the opportunity to develop and improve their technique and individual style in poetry, short story, drama, essays, and other forms of prose. The emphasis of the courses is on writing; however, students may study exemplary representations and authors to obtain a fuller appreciation of the form and craft. Although most creative writing classes cover several expressive forms, others concentrate exclusively on one particular form (such as poetry or playwriting).

Debate: Forensic Speech—Debate courses offer students the opportunity to learn how to use oral skills in formal and informal situations. In these courses, students are able to develop such skills as logic and reasoning, research and analysis, organization of thought and supporting materials, argumentative style and skill, and effective presentation of one's voice and body. Often linked to an extracurricular program, these courses introduce students to the methods, aims, and styles used in various kinds of debates (formal debate or Lincoln-Douglas). Participation in competition is encouraged, but not always required.

Drama 8: Introduction to Theater courses provide an overview of the art, conventions, and history of the theater arts. Although the courses sometimes include experiential exercises, they emphasize learning about theater processes rather than theatrical production and performance. Course topics include one or more of the following: basic techniques in acting, major developments in dramatic literature, major playwrights, the evolution of theater as a cultural tradition, and critical appreciation of the art and craft of the theater profession.

French I: Designed to introduce students to French language and culture, French I courses prepare students to communicate authentically in French by interpreting (reading, listening, viewing), exchanging (speaking and listening; reading and writing), and presenting (speaking, writing) information on a variety of topics. They introduce the relationships among the products, practices, and perspectives of French-speaking cultures.

Guitar: Guitar courses provide students an introduction to, and refine the fundamentals of music and guitar literature and techniques.

Humanities: Humanities courses examine and evoke student responses to human creative efforts and the world in particular historical periods and cultures. Course content includes exploration, analysis, synthesis, and various responses to cultural traditions, including viewing, listening, speaking, reading, writing, performing and creating. The courses may also examine relationships among painting, sculpture, architecture and music.

Latin I: Through elementary readings and sentences, students in Latin 1 learn how the Latin language operates and how English grammar and vocabulary stem from it. Students learn the inflections, rules of syntax, and vocabulary needed for the comprehension and translation of simple Latin stories. Other activities include English to Latin translation, both oral and written; word study (derivatives and formation of words); and discussion of Roman civilization and mythology.

Leadership Exploration: Prepares students to be leaders in their schools, families, communities and careers through project-based learning. The course offers students the opportunity to practice the lifelong learning and leadership skills necessary to be responsible self advocates, effective communicators and collaborators, responsible citizens, creative thinkers and problem solvers. Students explore concepts of human development, interpersonal relationships, community and resource management, nutrition and wellness, decision making and leadership.

Media, Arts, and Design Exploration: Media, Arts, and Design Exploration: In this course, you'll get to use cool digital tools and technology! You'll learn about programming, coding, game design, creative design, photography, animation, and film. You'll discover how to use different types of media software and learn how to create and design digital projects.

Mixed Media Art: This course lets you explore different types of art all in one place! You might try drawing, painting, sculpture, or two and three-dimensional design. You'll learn how to look at art carefully, understand what it means, and express yourself visually. You'll explore different materials, techniques, and styles. As you get better, you'll develop your own artistic style and learn about famous artists and different art movements.

Orchestra 8: Strings courses provide students the fundamentals of music and bowed-string instrument literature and techniques and may include more advanced techniques. These courses teach students the appropriate care, handling, and maintenance of musical instruments. Formal and informal performances are included as part of string instrument instructional programs as well as experiences in creating and responding to music.

Photography: In this course, you'll learn all about taking great photos! You'll discover different techniques and ways to develop your skills as a photographer. You'll explore how to compose your shots and work with photos in creative ways. The main goal is to help you make meaningful pictures that show your personal style and creativity. You'll learn how to use photography as a way to express your ideas, feelings, and what matters to you.

Spanish for Fluent Speakers: This course will support our growing number of **8th grade Spanish speaking students** who have achieved fluency (either through the dual language program or as heritage or native speakers) and want to continue their study of Spanish. The focus of this class will be on practical applications of Spanish within the Albemarle County community, including partnerships for work-based learning and information around interpretation and translation credentialing, as well as building academic vocabulary in Spanish for students, including specific terminology related to future career and college pathways.

Spanish 1 (High School Spanish): 8th grade students will learn to listen, speak, read, and write in the language through a study of cultures that use the language as part of their heritage. Students will learn basic vocabulary and essential grammar to communicate in simple sentences and navigate real-world experiences. Students will practice basic literacy and gain insight into the way of life of cultures associated with the language.

STEM Innovations: Students integrate knowledge and skills from multiple STEM and technical fields to address authentic problems and design challenges. Projects may combine areas such as biotechnology, robotics, engineering, coding, manufacturing, or healthcare technologies as students plan, build, test, troubleshoot, and improve solutions for real-world contexts and audiences.

Yearbook: This course provides students with the knowledge and skills necessary to produce the school yearbook. Students may gain experience in several components (writing, editing, layout, production, and so on) or may focus on a single aspect while producing the publication.