

Eighth Grade Exploratory Classes

Art -Students will explore a variety of materials, processes, and art history throughout the semester. Projects include drawing, painting, ceramics and more. Seventh grade art is not required as a prerequisite for this course.

Choir -Eighth grade choir provides students with the fundamentals of sight-reading, vocal production, rehearsal technique, performance skills and listening. Students will follow a sequence of instruction that will allow them to reach their musical potential as demonstrated through performance opportunities. Students will participate in 2 formal concerts during this semester course. With permission choir can be taken as a full year course.

Intermediate Band-Eighth grade intermediate band represents the second full year of training. The emphasis is on technique with two formal concerts and one required district festival performance.

Intermediate Orchestra-Eighth Grade Intermediate Orchestra is the second full year of the stringed instrument training program. Study of more advanced bowing techniques, positions, vibrato, major scales and arpeggios are emphasized and performed. Attention to requisite musical techniques is expanded. Students must have successfully completed Beginning Orchestra to be eligible. Students will perform in three required formal concerts.

Family and Consumer Science-In grade eight family and consumer science, students review procedures and acquire new skills in sewing involving both machine and hand sewing techniques. The foods unit includes food preparation and healthy food choices. The focus of all units is to provide opportunities for promoting self-esteem and decision-making skills while acquiring daily living skills.

Spanish-The Spanish 7/8 class is designed to develop communication skills in Spanish and to explore Hispanic cultures with the goal of encouraging understanding and tolerance of differences. Life in various Spanish-speaking countries will be examined. Correct pronunciation including stress and intonation receives emphasis. Students learn to express and understand receptively ideas on topics such as age, foods, sports, time, family and holidays. Career opportunities using foreign language are explored. This is a one-semester class which can be taken only once in either 7th or 8th grade.

Computers- Introduction to Computer Science (ICS) is designed to be implemented as a two nine-week PLTW Gateway modules. In each module, student teams create an Android® interface to solve a problem the team defines. Students learn fundamental computer science (CS) concepts using MIT App Inventor. The course aims to develop computational thinking and build student excitement. Several days in each module are targeted to build career awareness about computing skills in all fields and to improve students' cyber hygiene.

Speech-This is a fun fast paced class where students will work on being a confident communicator. In this class students will train to give a variety of speeches, presentations, play improv games and train to be in front of an audience. This is a great way to help yourself make better presentations and great first impressions.

Publications- In this class students will work on the production of the school yearbook and other publications. This includes photography, videography, and writing. Students should be prepared to write, edit and rewrite in this class. There is a lot of electronic media work done in this class with the online yearbook program, movie making software, online blogs, and Microsoft Publisher.

Medical Detectives/Science of Technology-

Students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they analyze genetic testing results to diagnose disease and study DNA evidence found at a "crime scene." They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, investigate how to measure and interpret vital signs, and learn how the systems of the human body work together to maintain health. Science impacts the technology of yesterday, today, and the future. Students apply the concepts of physics, chemistry, and nanotechnology to STEM activities and projects, including making ice cream, cleaning up an oil spill, and discovering the properties of nano-materials.

AVID

The eighth grade AVID Elective course is the year of preparation for high school. The students will regularly exhibit and utilize the skills and strategies learned in the sixth and seventh grade AVID courses. Students will refine previous goals, focusing on their transition to high school as part of a college preparatory path. Their writing will focus on completing all steps of the writing process and varying style, word choice, vocabulary, structure and voice. Major writing assignments include persuasive, expository, descriptive and timed writing. Students will transition from active learners to leaders. Other areas of focus include increasing the use of technology and building upon their test preparation and test-taking knowledge. They will broaden their experiences with analyzing text and utilizing appropriate reading strategies in various settings. Students will become more involved in the presentations of guest speakers and field trips, particularly as they relate to preparation and prior knowledge. Students will also participate in college preparatory testing and build connections with the high school they will attend.