

Course Descriptions for 8th Grade Electives

Spanish 1

This course introduces the basic language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Vocabulary acquisition is a key element. Students are expected to actively participate in class. *Students can earn one high school credit.*

Spanish II

Prerequisite: *Successful completion of diagnostic test or credit in Spanish 1*

This course is designed to provide an accelerated approach to language instruction for native speakers. Instruction will emphasize reading, writing, and higher order thinking skills. The compacted curriculum will allow students to earn two high school credits.

Band: Symphonic 7/8

Prerequisite: Successful completion of a beginning band class and/or audition or evaluation by teacher

Band (Advanced) 7/8

Prerequisite: Successful completion of a beginning band class and/or audition or evaluation by teacher

Jazz Band

Prerequisite: 1. Successful completion of a beginning band class; 2. Instructor approval required; 3. Must be currently enrolled in Band 7/8. Students will explore and learn techniques of jazz, swing, pop, rock, blues, Latin music, showmanship, and basic improvisation. May include rehearsals and performances outside of the school day.

Orchestra: Advanced

Prerequisite: Successful completion of a beginning orchestra class and teacher approval by audition

Advanced Choir

Prerequisite: Successful completion of a beginning choir class and teacher approval by audition

Advanced Theatre Arts

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Theater Arts 7/8 and teacher approval by audition or evaluation

Art I (High School Credit)

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Studio Art 6 or Art 7

Journalism: Yearbook

This course teaches students' yearbook design and composition in order to create the school yearbook using Adobe Indesign and Photoshop. Students are instructed in digital photography, theme development, interviewing, and writing skills.

Leadership

This course trains students to be knowledgeable in conflict resolution and to become effective speakers. Students utilize leadership skills through the planning process, problem-solving, and teamwork to develop, carry out, and evaluate student-led service projects.

Athletics

Prerequisite: A physical exam is required each year and UIL approved forms are to be used. All paperwork must be completed before students are allowed to try out or participate. Students must pass all courses to be eligible to compete.

This course involves instruction, skill development, rules, officiating, and fundamentals for team members in each particular sport area and involves before and after school practice. Transportation to and from practice is the responsibility of the student. Students may be involved in competition against other schools, which will require traveling, and students will have to be picked up after games. **Note:** If a student is not participating on a team for a season, they will be considered "off-season". There are no schedule changes in and out of Athletics during the year. Sports: football, volleyball, basketball, and track.

Students may be required to take a course that meets physical education requirements, if they have not completed a minimum of two years of PE credit.

Dance

This class is available for males and females. This course is an introduction to the terminology and general principles of dance. Students will learn how to perform beginning movements of a variety of dance forms, including ballet, jazz, folk and social, modern, and tap. Students will also learn basic elements of choreography. Class concerts and performances are required.

Sports & Fitness

In this course, students develop knowledge and skills in activities that promote an active lifestyle through individual and lifetime recreational sport activities.

Activities may include golf, tennis, bowling, archery, horseshoes, Frisbee, basketball, soccer, disc golf, badminton, table tennis, softball, volleyball, floor hockey, team handball.

Gateway to Technology : One high school credit is earned upon successful completion. This math, science, and technology integrated program uses a hands-on approach to show how technology is used in engineering to solve everyday problems.

Technology Applications I

Multimedia introduces students to a wide range of digital media processes and applications.

BIMM (Business Information Management I): One high school credit is earned upon successful completion. Students implement personal and interpersonal skills to strengthen individual performance in the workplace and in society. Students apply technical skills to address business applications of emerging technologies, create word-processing documents, develop a spreadsheet, formulate a database, and make an electronic presentation using appropriate software.

Mariachi: Prerequisite: Instructor approval required; must be currently enrolled in Band, Choir, or Orchestra

Art & Media Communications I: One high school credit can be earned upon successful completion. No art prerequisite required.

This course is a rigorous and relevant experiential study of modern, post-modern, and contemporary visual art and design with student learning in media literacy and technology applications. Students will create new media such as animations, digital images, multimedia presentations, digital videos, websites, and more.

Musical Theater I Prerequisite: Must be in currently enrolled in choir or theater.

Students will be active in a wide range of on-stage performance discipline, including acting performance, vocal performance, and dance performance. The course will also provide an atmosphere in which students benefit from a teaching and learning experience in these performance disciplines of Broadway-style musical theater.

AVID

Students learn strategies for success in college. The course emphasizes rhetorical reading, analytical writing, collaborative discussion strategies, tutorial inquiry study groups, study skills, test taking strategies, time management and personal organization. (Application process required)