

Elective Course Description Sheet - 8th Grade 2019-20 School Year

Art 8 (*Semester*) is a course designed to provide students with a studio-based experience in which they can explore fundamental topics in art and design. Artists are guided and supported to foster an enthusiasm in their work through drawing, painting, printmaking, and sculpture building.

Advanced Art 8 (*Year*) is a yearlong course designed to provide students with an in-depth, studio-based art experience. Artists are given time to focus on personal interests and are supported to foster an enthusiasm for their own work. All students gain a fundamental understanding of the issues of art and design and learn to look at the art making process critically and analytically. Students must have a recommendation from Mr. Harris prior to selecting this class. All students are encouraged to apply, regardless if you have previously taken Art. **Recommendation does not guarantee placement in class.**

Band 8 (*Advanced*) (*Year*) Students will be exposed to a wide variety of musical literature, with emphasis on solo and ensemble work. Music theory and history are a very important part of this class. Emphasis is placed on achieving a higher degree of artistic performance, both as an individual and as an ensemble. This is an audition-only performance group. First year players will not be accepted into this Band. After-school rehearsals will be scheduled in order to prepare for each scheduled performance. **Students must audition with Mr. Poe before being selected for this ensemble.**

Chorus 8 (*Year*) Do you like to sing and perform? Then this is the class for you! Chorus 8 is our premier vocal ensemble and is made up exclusively of eighth graders. Students will develop into independent singers, striving to achieve the highest level of musicianship in choral music. Students in Chorus 8 will perform in solos and small ensembles, as well as performing with the full Chorus. They will also learn and improve their music reading and sight-singing ability. Highlights of the year will include several concerts and auditions for the All-District Chorus. Chorus 8 students will also participate in the annual Old Donation School Chorus Musical, and will experience all aspects of producing and performing a Broadway musical. **Only full-year Chorus students may audition for the All-District Chorus and the Chorus Musical. After-school rehearsals will be scheduled for these events and each scheduled performance.**

Health and Physical Education 8 A and B (*Semesters*) ““Fitness and movement exploration with emphasis on learning of lifetime fitness and sports.” Activities included weight training, cross fit, aerobic activities, dance, yoga and other fitness related experiences. Traditional sports activities are played to include golf, flag football, badminton, soccer, and recreational type games. Students will be exposed to other nontraditional games in order for everyone to find their niche. It is a blended curriculum whereas students engage in interactive, meaningful learning experiences within the physical education setting, often injecting health concepts that once were taught in a more traditional classroom. It is also a hybrid course whereas the predominant amount of health knowledge will be obtained by a set of modules online. Through these modules the student will obtain an understanding of wellness, health risk behaviors, managing personal health, and environmental health. A culminating activity at the end of the year is beachfest where students learn safe practices while at the beach to include skin cancer, safety, nutrition, recreation and games.

Introduction to Computers (*Semester*) This semester course in creative coding introduces students to computer science as a vehicle for problem solving, communication, and personal expression. As a whole, this semester focuses on the visible aspects of computing and computer science, end encourages students to see where computer science exists around them and how they can engage with it as a tool for exploration and expression.

Intermediate Computer Exploration (*Semester*) This semester course in creative coding lets students explore the impact of computer science on society. Students will see how a user-centered design process produces a better application, how data is used to address problems that affect large numbers of people, and how physical computing with circuit boards allows computers to collect input and return output in a variety of ways. **Prerequisite: Introduction to Computers**

Inventions and Innovations (*Semester*) Do you like figuring out how things work, and how to make them work better? Does computer-assisted design interest you? If so, this course is for you. *Inventions and Innovations* is a fast-paced course that offers students a first-hand look at how design tools have guided advances in technology, as well as hands-on experience in working with tools such as AutoCAD, 3D printers, and other resources for modeling and prototyping purposes.

Jazz Band (*Year*) The class will explore the development of Jazz music and the many different styles of Jazz literature. The class will be limited to traditional Jazz Band instrumentation. **This is an audition-only class.** Additionally, all participating students must be enrolled in another performance music class.

Digital Applications (*Semester*) (*One-half high school credit*) will have nine weeks of keyboarding skill building with other applications. This course is designed for students to develop real-life, outcome-driven approach skills for digital citizenship, basic computer operations, keyboarding, applications software (word processing, spreadsheets, multimedia applications, databases), and career exploration. This course promotes skill building that can be applied across the curriculum.

Design/Multimedia Presentation (*Semester*) (*One-half high school credit*) is a production-based class where students develop proficiency in designing and creating desktop-published projects, multimedia presentations/projects, and WEB sites, using industry-standard application software. Students apply principles of layout and design in completing projects. Students create portfolios that include a résumé and a variety of desktop-published, multimedia and Web site projects produced in the course.

Orchestra 8 (*Advanced*)(*Year*) places an emphasis on the acquisition of skills needed to meet a high standard of musical performance as a soloist and ensemble member. Most of the members have at least two years of orchestra experience and many of those members have three and four years of experience. Music repertoire for the class includes Grade IV, V, and VI levels of difficulty. Several after-school performances and rehearsals will be required.

Reading Skills for the College Bound (*Semester*) (*One-half high school credit*) is designed for students to gain the independence necessary for a successful college experience. Students learn how to read and think analytically, prepare for the SAT, and refine study skills. In addition, students focus on using reasoning and problem-solving skills to make informed decisions, building high-level comprehension skills to read and understand rigorous high school and post-secondary texts, and assessing and evaluating new information independently. Emphasis is placed on self-exploration through critical thinking that includes determining learning styles, refining appropriate study skills for college, and assessing the components of choosing the college or post-secondary experience to fit each individual.

Theatre I (*semester*) is a course that will focus on the development of student creativity, intuitive, and presentation skills, while refining collaborative work efforts and skills acquired through Improvisation and Scene Study. Students will analyze and portray complex characters and experiences to refine technique in stage acting and Scene Building, this includes skit writing. This course will introduce to students various roles in production, and facilitates the comparison of theatre arts to others forms of performance in preparation for further theatrical study.

Oral Communications (*Semester*) is a course is designed to extend technique and skills acquired in previous theatre coursework. Students will focus on dimensions of character, and collaborating on more complex projects, including ensemble acting, playwriting, and student directing. Students will refine problem-solving, critical thinking, and creative thinking skills while justifying artistic choice, including fulfilling duties in technical theatre. This course will introduce to students the expectations for stage auditions and components of professional acting, further preparing them for theatre studies at the high school level.