

8th Grade Elective Course Descriptions

Art

Art Foundations (Half Year) This course provides an overview of the elements of art and art history, while studying a variety of art tools and materials. Students will learn to compare, discuss, and create works of art.

3D Art (Half Year) This course explores the design aspect of sculpture using various materials to create three dimensional art.

Drawing I (Half Year) Projects focus on ways to comprehend space, depth, and rendering three dimensional forms.

Drawing II (Half Year) This is an advanced drawing course and students will receive more in-depth instruction and further enhance concepts learned in Drawing I.

Dance

Social Dance (Half/Full Year) This course offers instruction and practice in the basic social dance steps, rhythms, and techniques. The following dances may be included: Cha Cha, Samba, Rumba, Paso Doble, Swing, Mambo, Waltz, Tango, Foxtrot, Viennese Waltz, Charleston and Disco.

Ballroom Dance Team (Full Year) *Prerequisite: Audition and teacher approval.* This course is for students on the school's ballroom dance team and offers advanced instruction and practice in social dance. Students will participate in competitions and perform in assemblies. Students may be required to attend before or after school practices.

Beginning Dance (Half Year) This is a dance class for students with no previous dance experience. Students will begin to learn the elements and techniques of ballet, jazz, contemporary/modern, hip hop and some world dance. Attending this class will increase your coordination, stamina, strength, and flexibility through appropriate dance principles in a positive and fun environment.

Intermediate Dance (Half Year) *Prerequisite: Beginning Dance or teacher approval.* This class is for students who have already developed fundamental dance skills and techniques in

at least one genre of dance. It is good preparation for auditioning for Dance Company. Dance Company (Full Year) *Prerequisite: Audition and teacher approval.* Students on the school dance team will be in this course. The course is a mix between learning techniques in various genres while working with choreographers to prepare for assemblies and concerts.

Music

NOTE: For classes requiring an instrument, you may talk to the teacher about getting help with purchasing or renting.

Choir (Full Year) Students learn proper singing technique, note reading, sight singing, and how to evaluate musical performances. No prior music experience required.

Guitar (Full Year) This course stresses guitar fundamentals, basic chords and melodies. We will learn basic music theory. This class will give you the foundation to play all types of music including folk, rock, pop, country, and classical.

Concert Band I (Full Year) For all beginning and intermediate percussion, brass, and woodwind players. Daily practice is required.

Wind Ensemble (Band II/Full Year) *Prerequisite: Audition and/or teacher approval.* For advanced percussion, brass, and woodwind instrument players. Daily practice is required. This group performs in assemblies and participates in a band festival every year.

Intermediate Orchestra (Full Year) For string instrument players with at least 1 year of experience. Daily practice is required.

Advanced Orchestra (Full Year) *Prerequisite: Audition and/or teacher approval.* For advanced string instrument players. Daily practice is required.

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World Languages

Spanish I (Full Year) This course is designed to give an introduction to one of the world's most widely spoken languages. Through reading, listening, writing, and speaking practice, students will be able to master basic Spanish for use in the real world. Students will also learn about cultures, dances, music, foods, and themselves. Students taking this course in 9th grade will be prepared to take Spanish 2 in high school.

Latin 1 (Full Year) This course is designed to teach skills in listening, speaking, reading, and spelling. The course content includes grammar and vocabulary work, concentrating on Latin roots that are the basis for modern English. Students will develop an appreciation for the arts and culture of the countries whose languages originated from Latin.

Latin 2 (Full Year) *Prerequisite: Latin 1.* This course is designed to teach intermediate skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The course content includes further development of grammar, vocabulary, and etymological (word origin) skills. This course will also more heavily emphasize the grammatical details of the Latin language preparing students to translate Latin texts. Students will develop an appreciation for the arts and culture of the countries whose languages originated from Latin.

General Electives

Debate (Full Year) Speech & Debate is a challenging class requiring the total commitment of each student. Students will be coached on how to stand, walk, talk and dress for public speaking and competitive debate success. Students will learn to be powerful public speakers & debaters, improve research and logic skills through constant research and presentation. For those who are willing to immerse themselves in a verbally intensive and thought-provoking environment, this class has the potential to be a life-changing experience. Speech & Debate is full-year, eligible 8th and 9th graders. It is designed to teach public speaking skills, principles of formal debate, and how to

apply those skills competitively. Speech & Debate students will constantly practice and hone their presentation skills to present their data and ideas in a successful manner through in-class competitions. In addition to presentation skills students will improve their research, analytical and critical thinking skills to better understand relevant current events and political issues at the national and global levels. Students will also learn how to identify bias, perception and opinion versus facts and obtainable truths by developing logical questioning skills.

Independent Study (Half/Full Year) Independent Study is available for students who need additional time to complete assignments. Students decide what they are going to work on during class. The class is run by an advisor who can assist students with tracking their grades.

Teacher Assistant (TA) (Half/Full Year) Being a Teacher Assistant or Office Aide is a great opportunity to serve, support, teach, and lead. Students are assigned to work with a teacher or in the office to help carry out various projects and responsibilities. To be considered for a position, students must maintain good grades and good citizenship.

PE Electives

NOTE: Dance classes may be taken for PE credit in 8th grade.

8th Grade PE (Half/Full Year) Students may choose to take this course for PE credit for one semester and then take it again the next semester for elective credit.

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Theater

Advanced Musical Theater (Full Year)

Prerequisite: Must have taken Drama 1, or the equivalent of Drama 1. Must Audition to make it onto this advanced theater team and/or have teacher approval. Students will develop their knowledge of acting and production techniques by rehearsing and performing in two productions 2nd semester and a couple of assemblies. The school musical runs for 2 weeks. 2nd performance is a freshmen led Spring Showcase performed in the spring. After school rehearsals are once per week from August until the end of April. Participation fee required.

Technical Theater (Full Year) Students in this class will learn the skills necessary to be part of the stage crew for the AMT, IMT and Drama productions. First semester will be training on all of the elements involved in technical theater. Techies will design and run the 8th grade musical performed in November. Second semester Techies will roll into either IMT or AMT and will be expected to run, design and participate in all musicals and plays from February until May. Participation fee required.

Drama 1 (Half Year) This is the prerequisite for Drama 2, IMT or AMT the following year. Students will develop their knowledge of theater through an exploration of improvisation, voice and movement for the stage, theatre vocabulary, scenes with blocking and memorization, and auditioning techniques. Monologue unit is prevalent in this class, which is used in all upper level theater classes. The student will be introduced to the roles of the actor, the director, the designer, the playwright, the dramaturg, the drama critic, the audience, and to classical periods/styles of theatre. No fee required. Non-musical/Non-performing

Drama 2 (Half Year) *Prerequisite: Drama 1 or teacher approval.* This course will continue their study of drama and prepare students for a class

production to be performed at the end of the semester. Participation fee required.

Intermediate Musical Theater (Half Year)

Prerequisite: Must have taken Drama 1, or the equivalent of Drama 1. Everyone signed up for this class is enrolled and will be in the ensemble, except the leading characters. Auditions for leading characters will be held in May for the following school year. This class takes place second semester. Students will develop their knowledge of musical theater through an exploration of vocal warm-ups, good vocal use, choral and solo singing, choreography, and audition techniques. Students will be introduced to selected musicals, songs, playwrights, and lyricists. After school rehearsals are once per week. Musical will be performed in May. Participation fee required.