

ELECTIVES COURSE DESCRIPTIONS—7th Grade Options

****All electives are not guaranteed and based on class availability, special programming and if scheduling permits.****

Art –Semester

Classes are filled with projects and activities that will boost your critical thinking habits, improve your collaborative participation, grow your creativity and develop your communication skills through making, writing and talking about art and art history. Classes are designed as an introduction to all forms of visual communication including drawing, painting, ceramics, printmaking, 3D sculpture, and digital art/technology.

Intermediate Band- Yearlong

This course is available to all 7th and 8th grade students that have previously been involved in band. This class will perform several concerts, learn music theory, work on musicianship, and attend District Band Festival in the Spring. This is a development class for either Advanced Band or the High School band program. Students & parents must sign a contract about no-drop policy.

Advanced Band – Yearlong

This course is available by audition only. This class will perform several concerts, attend District Band Festival in the Spring, march in parades, learn more advanced music theory, and work on higher musicianship skills. Auditions will be held in May for the following school year. Students & parents must sign a contract about no-drop policy.

Broadcast Journalism –Semester

This course will introduce students to the basics of Broadcast Journalism. Content includes writing, reporting, producing, and anchoring news stories. Students will also write and produce their own Public Service Announcements. Throughout the course, an emphasis will be placed on hands on production of student created newscasts. In addition, through Extension Projects, students will learn how to be a consumer of news as they evaluate stories, news mediums and learn about the history of journalism. *Steam certificate eligible.

Chorus –Semester

Chorus is a performance-based class in which music from a wide variety of styles, cultures, and time periods will be studied and performed. Students will learn proper vocal production and technique, music reading skills, sight-singing skills, and performance skills. This course will also provide opportunities for growth in the understanding of musical elements (i.e. rhythm, melody, form, harmony, expressive elements, and style) as applied to the music performed. Students will perform in several concert performances during the year and also have the opportunity to sing solos and participate in small ensembles.

Advanced Chorus –Yearlong

Students must audition for this class.

Culinary Science (Intro/Intermediate) –Semester

Advance your cooking skills and knowledge of nutrition through this class. Students will learn about carbohydrates, fats, proteins, and sugars as they cook a variety of recipes ranging from pretzels, to mozzarella cheese, to caramels.

Drama –Semester

In this class students will continue their study of stage acting, theatrical concepts, theatre history and vocabulary. The class will further develop the art of character development while engaging in physical, mental and acting techniques including improvisation, movement, voice, monologue preparation, scene study and performance preparation with an emphasis on concentration in a supportive class environment. Through games, exercises and various theatrical techniques, they will learn to build ensemble and hone their presentational skills. Theatre terminology will be built upon and further exploration of the history of theatre. There will be a possible opportunity for students to participate in the Drama Teacher's Association of Southern California Fall Festival, though not guaranteed.

Orchestra –Yearlong (0 period)

Ensemble class welcoming students of all levels and grades who want to play the following string instruments: violin, viola, cello, upright bass. The class meets every other day during 0 period from 7:00am-7:50am.

While prior experience is encouraged it is not mandatory; teacher to place student in level based on experience.

Intermediate

Intermediate orchestra is for all students who wish to learn or improve their performance skills on their instrument. The students will be learning music theory, playing as an ensemble, and instrument technique.

Advanced

This group is for more experienced players. The students learn focus on more advanced music literature, instrument technique, and becoming more professional musicians. Students in this group will have a chance to perform in our class string ensemble, a symphony ensemble, and chamber groups. Admittance into this group is by audition or approval only.

Spanish – Semester

In this introductory course, students will explore and study the Spanish language, Spanish-speaking countries, and various elements of Hispanic culture. Students will review the foundations of the language, focusing on pronunciation, basic grammar and vocabulary, basic conversation, and verb conjugations. This course is a quarter-long and provides an opportunity for students to explore language learning and cross-cultural understanding.

STEAM 7: Design/Modeling; –Semester

In Design & Modeling we will apply the design process to solve problems and understand the influence of creativity, innovation, and design in our lives. We will work in teams to design, model, and test: a foot orthosis for kids with cerebral palsy, a puzzle cube, a toy truck, and a scale model paper rocket. Using Autodesk® 3D design software, we will create virtual images of our designs and produce a digital portfolio to showcase our innovative and creative solutions. Finally, we will use graphic design software to create our own logo and print a decal. *Steam certificate eligible.

STEAM 7: Automation/Robotics; –Semester

In Automation & Robotics we will trace the history, development, and influence of automation & robotics. We will learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, mechanism design, machine automation, and computer control systems. We will use the VEX Robotics® platform to design, build, and program a mazebot, drag racer, and a robotic arm. This class is for beginners, experience with robotics and programming is helpful, but not required. *Steam certificate eligible.

Aides –Semester (priority is given to 8th graders)

Teacher Aide: Students work for a specific teacher during the teacher's teaching period. The student performs a number of clerical tasks such as grading papers and record keeping. A student may not be a TA during a teacher's conference period. Students must have a B or better in all classes

Library Aide: Students assist in the library with a variety tasks. Work includes check in and check out of library materials, shelving books, setting up boards and displays, making deliveries to classrooms, and helping other students to access information. Students must have a B or better in all classes. *Approval by our librarian, Ms. Kahn.*

Office Aide: Students work in the school office and perform a variety of office tasks such as answering phones, assisting with attendance procedures, delivering call slips and filing. Students must have a B or better in all classes. *Approval by administration.*

Yearbook –Yearlong

In this course students will gain skills in one or more of the following areas: page design, advanced publishing techniques, copy writing, editing and photography while producing a creative, innovative yearbook which records school memories and events. There is an emphasis on journalism skills in this class! Participants gain useful, real world skills in time management, marketing, teamwork, and design principles.

Students will be given challenging real-world projects and assignments typical of the graphic design and publishing industries. High quality work is expected and students will be given opportunities to redo work until it meets standards specified during instruction. Classroom activities will include reading, research, projects, and problem solving. Students will often work in teams, but will be expected to complete individual assignments in relation to the team's work. Assessment methods will include written exams, tests, and quizzes; oral and written research reports; reading assignments; and projects.

Application process with approval by teacher.

0 Period PE –Yearlong

Physical Education before school Monday-Friday from 7:00-7:50 am in order to give students the opportunity for an additional elective during the school day. This elective is in place for students in specific programs, such as SPED, ELD, and/or other intervention programs that doesn't give them the chance to choose their own electives. Students & parents must sign a contract stating attendance/behavior policy.

Dance P.E. –Yearlong

This course is designed for 7th and 8th grade students who are interested in dance, movement, expression, nonverbal communication, choreography, and dance history. In this course, students become aware of the expressive capabilities of the physical body. Elements of dance and expression are explored through a variety of dance genres (i.e. ballet, jazz, modern). Students are expected to recognize and perform different genres of dance, understand the evolution of dance throughout the decades, and successfully articulate concepts and stories through group choreography. This class replaces general PE and fulfills the class requirement, including the Physical Fitness Test.