

**ELECTIVE
COURSE
DESCRIPTIONS
2019-2020**



SEITZ MIDDLE SCHOOL

ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 2019-2020

Band 6: Brass/Percussion or Woodwinds	Grade 6
Full Year Course	3 Electives

6th grade band class is designed for students who would like to learn to play an instrument for the first time. The primary focus for this class is on basic instrumental skill development and music reading. The aim is to develop the student so they can enter into the concert band the following year. This class is all about exploring music freely and learning at a natural pace for each individual student. If a student is looking to learn music while having a good time this is the class for them!

Concert Band 7	Grades 7
Full Year Course	3 Electives

Concert Band 7 provides students with learning and performance opportunities on wind and percussion instruments. The primary focus is on the development, continuation, and expansion of basic skills begun the previous year that are necessary for effective instrumental music performance. In addition to large group ensembles, individual growth and achievement are encouraged through participation in contests, festivals, honor bands, and private lessons. Although the curriculum is designed for students with one to two years of playing experience, students with no prior experience are welcome to participate. Beginners in seventh grade band must choose from one of the following beginning instruments: tuba, clarinet, and euphonium.

Concert Band 8	Grades 8
Full Year Course	3 Electives

Concert Band 8 is an ensemble that provides students with learning and performance opportunities on wind and percussion instruments. The primary focus is on the development, continuation, and expansion of basic skills begun the previous year that are necessary for effective instrumental music performance. In addition to large group ensembles, individual growth and achievement are encouraged through participation in contests, festivals, honor bands, and private lessons.

Choir 6	Grades 6
1 - 3 Trimesters	1-3 Electives

Choir 6 provides students who enjoy singing the opportunity to explore various musical styles. From classical to rock we sing it all. No previous vocal experience is necessary. In the course, we will understand how to read music, hold a part and how to manipulate their voice in many different styles. This is a trimester class, but can be taken more than one time during the academic year.

Choir 7 & 8	Grades 7 & 8
Full year course	3 Electives

Choir 7 & 8 provides students who enjoy singing the opportunity to explore various musical styles and further build singing skills. From classical to rock we sing it all. No previous vocal experience is necessary. In the course, we will understand how to read music, hold a part and how to use your voice in many different styles. This is a full year course.

Jazz Band	Grades 7 & 8
1 - 3 Trimesters	1-3 Electives

Students will take their previous band experience and use their skills in a new way. Jazz focuses on tricky rhythms and articulation as well as improvisation. Students who play flute, clarinet, or French horn will need to learn a secondary instrument for jazz instrumentation. Open to all 7th and 8th grade concert band students. Non-band students will need special permission from Ms. Walsh to join

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Music 1-3 Trimesters	Grades 6, 7 & 8 1 - 3 Electives
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WORLD MUSIC:

In this class, we will discover, listen to, and play music from all different parts of the world. Students will learn about instruments, styles of music, and how music is incorporated into diverse societies. Music performance will be a small part of this class, no previous ability is required. Open to all grades.

GITAR:

In this class, students will broaden their knowledge of guitar performance. Student led learning is great for learning at all abilities levels, from beginner to advanced. We will not only learn chords, but also how to read music and how the notes translate onto the guitar. **ACOUSTIC GUITAR REQUIRED, SCHOOL DOES NOT PROVIDE INSTRUMENTS.** Open to grades 6, 7, and 8.

PIANO:

In this class, students will broaden their knowledge of piano performance. Student led learning is great for learning at all abilities levels, from beginner to advanced. Students will learn both treble and bass clef reading for right and left hand playing. **STUDENT PIANOS ARE PROVIDED, BUT AND INSTRUMENT AT HOME TO PRACTICE ON IS RECOMMENDED.** Open to grades 6, 7, and 8.

Drama 1-3 Trimesters	Grades 6, 7 & 8 1 - 3 Electives
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Do you like to act? How about design sets? Drawing? Makeup? Lights? Sound? If so you have come to the right place. In drama, you will get to experience the jobs available in the theater. The final project is a production put on by the students. Come join our exciting class!

Art 1 Trimester	Grades 6 - 8 1 Elective
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6th Grade

The first year of Art instruction at Seitz Middle School is based heavily upon exposure to wide range of media and techniques. The student learns art terminology, basic design elements and principles, and art history. A major goal is to stimulate confidence in self-expression so that the students do not feel intimidated or set limits in their work.

7th Grade

Classes will focus on environmental awareness and development of self-expression, creativity and problem solving through hands on projects. Students will continue to explore many art media with advanced concepts and techniques. Artists and art history will help serve as inspiration and understanding of the arts.

8th Grade

Classes continue instruction in the elements and principles of design. Students will learn further advanced techniques and concepts. New materials and media is introduced.

Readers Workshop 1 Trimester	Grade 6 1 Elective
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In Reader's Workshop, students learn close reading strategies and develop analytical skills using reading materials of their choice. The course is designed to guide students in finding books they love and to engage the books with creative projects. The class is a blend of reading, writing, innovation and technology, and choice.

Creative Writing 1 Trimester	Grade 6 1 Elective
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Creative Writing explores different genres of writing. This course is designed with the goal of inspiring students to develop original pieces and ideas. Through writing and thinking students will learn to become better writers and thinkers. The skills focused on in this course will help students in other courses as well, especially English. Writing genres covered are autobiographies, fairy tales, fantasies, short stories, and journals.

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STEM MakerSpace 1 Trimester	Grade 6 1 Elective
STEM is an acronym that represents the integration of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. STEM is a project-based learning environment in which students are challenged to actively engage in the learning process through critical thinking, analytical observation, experimentation, research and teambuilding. <u>STEM MakerSpace:</u> Students will explore the disciplines of science, technology, engineering, mathematics through various challenges that are created in our MakerSpace through inventiveness and design	
Computers 1 Trimester	Grades 6 & 8 1 Elective
<u>Computer 6 & Computer Exploration 8</u> Students will build computer based knowledge in various topics such as digital ethics/citizenship, memory and storage, networking, internet navigation and virus protection, e-commerce and assistance technology, and a variety of other software utilization.	
Mythology 1 Trimester	Grade 7 1 Elective
Explore the world of Greek mythology. Using popular literary character Percy Jackson, students will be introduced to the Gods and Goddesses of Ancient Greece. We will use short stories to compare how the Gods' portrayal has changed through time. In addition, students will learn the origins of some popular modern words, the significance of Greek tales, and complete projects to showcase their knowledge of the subject along with their creativity.	
Physical Education 1 Trimester	Grades 6, 7 & 8 1 Elective
Students are introduced to various aspects of physical education such as nutrition, physical fitness, and team activities. <u>Gym 6, 7 & 8:</u> Classes are separated by gender (Girls Gym & Boys Gym). Students are expected to change into appropriate attire – a separate lock can be used to secure belongings in locker room while attending class. *One trimester is required at all grade levels.	
Character Education 1 Trimester	Grade 8 1 Elective
The major goals of this program is to help young adolescents develop positive behaviors, such as self-discipline, good judgment, responsibility, and getting along with others. This class is mostly discussion oriented. We celebrate diversity and encourage respect for self and others. This class will provide opportunities for young adolescents to practice good citizenship through cooperation and service to others. During the trimester, we will; Build self-discipline, responsibility, and self-confidence, recycle and learn to resist negative peer pressure.	
Current Events 1 Trimester	Grade 8 1 Elective
The Current Events class will focus on topics dedicated to Michigan, United States, and the World. We will use various modes of technology and media to examine, analyze, and understand the world around us. The class will focus on the use of projects, writing assignments, and debates to connect with the events that shape our country and the world.	
Eco Hope 1 Trimester	Grade 8 1 Elective
ECO HOPE is a trimester long class that will allow students to explore and investigate current environmental issues around the world and right in their own back yard. We will explore and investigate the human-environment interactions and evaluate their impacts on each other. Opportunities will be given to present alternative solutions for resolving and preventing problems we may see in these relationships. Activities may include such things as visits to the local landfill, visits to local wildlife areas such as Humbug Marsh, recycling, energy conservation and many other environmental locations.	

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Mindfulness 1 Trimester	Grade 8 1 Elective
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A trimester-long course to explore Mindfulness through the use of breathing exercises, yoga, and other Mindful practices. This course is designed to teach 8th grade students techniques to help them manage the stressful emotions that every teen faces. Other techniques will encourage self-compassion and emotion regulation, allowing for students to experience more feelings of happiness and calmness. Students will be introduced to new experiences such as short periods of meditation, body-mind awareness, and simple yoga poses. As with sports or any other new activity, this topic requires practice and a willingness to try it out.

Careers 1 Trimester	Grade 7 Required
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This course will provide meaningful opportunities for students in understanding how their skills and interests relate to career exploration, course selection, and postsecondary planning. Students will begin working on their EDP (Educational Development Plan) – a document showing a student’s education and career goals including plans to achieve those goals. This is a required course for 7th grade students.

Health 1 Trimester	Grade 7 Required
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In Health, students will gain knowledge in nutrition and in mental fitness by learning stress reducing activities such as yoga and mindfulness. The State of Michigan AIDS education will be delivered during the trimester. This is a required course for 7th grade students.

World Language Full Year Course	Grade 7 & 8
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World Language education is received through a blended learning approach by having a highly qualified teacher in the classroom and by utilizing Rosetta Stone. Students may choose between Spanish, French, and German (the classroom teacher is an expert in the Spanish language; therefore, students choosing a different language will be independent learners in the classroom). High school graduation credit is awarded if Rosetta Stone modules are successfully completed.

Programming - Computers Full Year Course	Grade 7
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This course will provide students with an understanding of the role computation can play in solving problems. It also aims to help students feel justifiably confident of their ability to write small programs that allow them to accomplish useful goals. High school VPAA graduation credit is awarded if successfully completed.