Course Descriptions 2020-2021

6th Grade Electives

- **Beginning Band**
  - Grade Level: 6th grade
  - This class offers the band experience at the beginning level. 6th grade students will begin their study of instrumental music and standard performance practices on woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments. Instruction areas include ensemble rehearsal and performance techniques, musicianship, tone production, festival performance and sight reading, and music literacy. Numerous concerts, festivals, and public performances are required throughout the year. Prerequisites: NA. Non auditioned.

- **Beginning Orchestra**
  - Grade Level: 6th grade
  - This class offers the band experience at the beginning level. 6th grade students will begin their study of instrumental music and standard performance practices on string instruments. Instruction areas include ensemble rehearsal and performance techniques, musicianship, tone production, festival performance and sight reading, and music literacy. Numerous concerts, festivals, and public performances are required throughout the year. Prerequisites: NA. Non auditioned.

- **Treble Choir II**
  - Grade Level: 6th Grade Female Identifying
  - Treble Choir II is a year-long course that will teach beginning concepts in vocal technique, music theory, sight-reading, and performing in unison and two parts. Students will have opportunities to participate at Large Group Festival in the Spring. This is performance-based course. Students are required to attend all concert performances with appropriate concert attire as outlined by the Lone Star MS Music Department.

- **Men’s Choir**
  - Grade Level: 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Male Identifying
  - Men’s Choir is a year-long course that will teach and reinforce concepts in vocal technique, male-voice change, music theory, sight-reading, and performing in unison, two, and three parts in preparation for high school choir. This class can be taken all three years. Students will have opportunities to participate at Large Group Festival in the Spring and audition for local honor choirs. This is performance-based course. Students are required to attend all concert performances with appropriate concert attire as outlined by the Lone Star MS Music Department.

- **OASIS/Wheel**
  - Grade Level: 6th Grade
  - The Wheel consists of rotating classes that may include Art, Music, Physical Education, Engineering, Study Skills, and Computers. The order is determined randomly. Wheel classes could vary depending on the school you attend.

7th Grade Electives
• **Concert Band**
  - Grade Level: 7th and 8th grade
  - This class covers advanced topics in ensemble performance and expands upon previously learned skills and concepts from Beginning Band. Its repertoire represents different genres, periods and cultures. Our goal, through the use of a wide variety of music, is to assist the development of independence and a greater musical understanding in students. Numerous concerts, festivals, and public performances are required throughout the year. Prerequisites: completion of Beginning Band or instructor approval. Non auditioned.

• **Advanced Orchestra**
  - Class Level: 7th and 8th grade
  - This class covers advanced topics in ensemble performance and expands upon previously learned skills and concepts from Beginning Orchestra. Its repertoire represents different genres, periods and cultures. Our goal, through the use of a wide variety of music, is to assist the development of independence and a greater musical understanding in students. Numerous concerts, festivals, and public performances are required throughout the year. Prerequisites: completion of Beginning Orchestra or instructor approval. Non auditioned.

• **Jazz Band (Audition)**
  - Grade Level: 7th and 8th grade
  - This course is designed as a supplemental ensemble to the Concert Band and Advanced Orchestra. This class will serve as an introduction to the rich history of jazz music. Through ensemble rehearsal, individual practice, and a variety of performance opportunities, students will gain an understanding and appreciation for this great art form. Emphasis will be placed on not just performance technique, but also rudimentary improvisational skills, musicianship, and a sense of personal accountability. This ensemble is a skilled effort in which each student is expected to show technical and musical growth throughout this course. The traditional instrumentation of the school Jazz band will be used: Saxophones, Trumpets, Trombones, Guitar, Piano, Bass and Drums (Percussion- including Vibes). Prerequisites: Beginning Band/Beginning Orchestra. Students must be currently enrolled in band, orchestra, or choir. Students are enrolled by audition only.

• **Treble Choir I**
  - Grade Level: 7th and 8th Grade Female Identifying
  - Treble Choir I is a year-long course. It is a continuation of Treble Choir II (Formerly Concert Choir). Treble Choir I will continue to teach vocal technique, music theory, sight-reading, and performing in two to three parts in preparation for high school choir. This class can be taken both 7th and 8th grade years. Students will have opportunities to audition for honor choirs, perform in local venues, and participate at Large Group Festival in the Spring. This is performance-based course. Students are required to attend all concert performances with appropriate concert attire as outlined by the Lone Star MS Music Department.

• **Men’s Choir**
  - Grade Level: 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Male Identifying
Men’s Choir is a year-long course that will teach and reinforce concepts in vocal technique, male-voice change, music theory, sight-reading, and performing in unison, two, and three parts in preparation for high school choir. This class can be taken all three years. Students will have opportunities to participate at Large Group Festival in the Spring and audition for local honor choirs. This is performance-based course. Students are required to attend all concert performances with appropriate concert attire as outlined by the Lone Star MS Music Department.

**Chamber Chorale**
- Grade Level: 7th and 8th Grade, Instructor Approval by Audition
- Chamber Chorale is a year-long auditioned choir made for both high treble and low bass voices. Chamber Chorale has an emphasis on expanding vocal technique, music theory, sight-reading, and performing in three to four parts in preparation for high school choir. Students will have opportunities to audition for honor choirs, perform in local venues, and participate at Large Group Festival in the Spring. Students will also be expected to perform at Solo and Small Ensemble Festival in 3rd Quarter. This is performance-based course. Students are required to attend all concert performances with appropriate concert attire as outlined by the Lone Star MS Music Department.

**Gateways to Technology – Robotics (This course is a prerequisite for Advanced Robotics in 8th Grade)**
- Grade Level: 7th Grade
- Students in this class will use the VEX robotics system to create basic mechanical systems and learn basic programming. Using that knowledge, they will then work in teams to create robotic systems to solve specific problems. Possible project examples include the creation of a zombie survival vehicle that can sense danger nearby and run it over; a claw bot that can find, pick up, and place an object in a goal; and a tank that is programmed to follow a route drawn on the floor. Students in this class will need to be creative, be able to improvise, build things without instructions, and work with others.

**Gateways to Technology- Design**
- Grade Level: 7th Grade
- Pre-Engineering is a project-based problem-solving class for 7th graders. Students learn technical drawing, 3d computer design, and have the opportunity to use the 3d printers. Students in this class will also spend time in the shop designing and building projects ranging from air rockets to crash-test vehicles.

**Art**
- Grade Level: 7th Grade
- Art is a general art class with an emphasis on experimenting with materials and techniques. Students will explore two-dimensional and three-dimensional processes with a variety of art media (i.e. pencil, paint, clay, etc.). Students will learn art vocabulary and terms. They will make choices to create works of art based on the elements of art and design principles.

**Digital Photography**
- Grade Level: 7th Grade
- In this class, students will learn the basics of photography and how to use a digital camera effectively to capture photographs. Parts of a camera, composition, lighting, and
other key topics will be discussed. Students will gain hands-on experience by taking their own digital photographs. Through participation in class activities, discussion and feedback, students will develop skills to improve their photography. Students will also learn to use digital editing tools and software such as Adobe Photoshop to produce creative projects. Students will be expected to take care of school camera equipment and prevent damage at all times.

- **Fitness**
  - Grade Level: 7th and 8th Grade
  - In this class students will be introduced to and instructed in a wide variety of skills, concepts, and activities that will significantly enhance their appreciation, knowledge, and physical fitness levels. Introduction to fitness will specifically focus on teaching students the proper fundamentals and techniques necessary for core strength, cardio, stability, speed, agility, and lifting technique. The class moves at an accelerated pace and has a rigorous curriculum that is intense and demanding both physically and mentally. Work in class is designed to develop the entire student through training to improve performance, reduce injury potential, and optimize performance. Units of training are systematically introduced throughout the semester with each unit building upon the previous one. Students will be expected to participate each day and dress down in appropriate P.E. attire.

### 8th Grade Electives

- **Concert Band**
  - Grade Level: 7th and 8th grade
  - This class covers advanced topics in ensemble performance and expands upon previously learned skills and concepts from Beginning Band. Its repertoire represents different genres, periods and cultures. Our goal, through the use of a wide variety of music, is to assist the development of independence and a greater musical understanding in students. Numerous concerts, festivals, and public performances are required throughout the year. Prerequisites: completion of Beginning Band or instructor approval. Non auditioned.

- **Advanced Orchestra**
  - Class Level: 7th and 8th grade
  - This class covers advanced topics in ensemble performance and expands upon previously learned skills and concepts from Beginning Orchestra. Its repertoire represents different genres, periods and cultures. Our goal, through the use of a wide variety of music, is to assist the development of independence and a greater musical understanding in students. Numerous concerts, festivals, and public performances are required throughout the year. Prerequisites: completion of Beginning Orchestra or instructor approval. Non auditioned.

- **Jazz Band (Audition)**
  - Grade Level: 7th and 8th grade
  - This course is designed as a supplemental ensemble to the Concert Band and Advanced Orchestra. This class will serve as an introduction to the rich history of jazz music.
Through ensemble rehearsal, individual practice, and a variety of performance opportunities, students will gain an understanding and appreciation for this great art form. Emphasis will be placed on not just performance technique, but also rudimentary improvisational skills, musicianship, and a sense of personal accountability. This ensemble is a skilled effort in which each student is expected to show technical and musical growth throughout this course. The traditional instrumentation of the school Jazz band will be used: Saxophones, Trumpets, Trombones, Guitar, Piano, Bass and Drums (Percussion- including Vibes). Prerequisites: Beginning Band/Beginning Orchestra. Students must be currently enrolled in band, orchestra, or choir. Students are enrolled by audition only.

- **Treble Choir I**
  - Grade Level: 7th and 8th Grade Female Identifying
  - Treble Choir I is a year-long course. It is a continuation of Treble Choir II (Formerly Concert Choir). Treble Choir I will continue to teach vocal technique, music theory, sight-reading, and performing in two to three parts in preparation for high school choir. This class can be taken both 7th and 8th grade years. Students will have opportunities to audition for honor choirs, perform in local venues, and participate at Large Group Festival in the Spring. This is performance-based course. Students are required to attend all concert performances with appropriate concert attire as outlined by the Lone Star MS Music Department.

- **Men’s Choir**
  - Grade Level: 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Male Identifying
  - Men’s Choir is a year-long course that will teach and reinforce concepts in vocal technique, male-voice change, music theory, sight-reading, and performing in unison, two, and three parts in preparation for high school choir. This class can be taken all three years. Students will have opportunities to participate at Large Group Festival in the Spring and audition for local honor choirs. This is performance-based course. Students are required to attend all concert performances with appropriate concert attire as outlined by the Lone Star MS Music Department.

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- **Yearbook**
  - Grade Level: 8th Grade
  - REQUIREMENTS: Must be approved by Mrs. Williams. Class size is limited.
  - In this yearlong elective class, students will work as a staff team to create the Lone Star Yearbook. Students will be responsible for taking candid pictures of assigned events
(both during school hours and after school hours). Students will learn basic journalism skills, copy editing, design, photography, advertising, and how to use professional photo editing and publishing software. They will be expected to act responsibly and take care of camera equipment at all times. Students will also create videos and products for the school website and front office to showcase important school events. Students on the yearbook staff should be creative, dependable, self-starters who are able to manage their own work time to meet deadlines.

- **Advanced Robotics**
  - Grade Level: 8th Grade
  - REQUIREMENTS: Must have approval form signed by Mr. Moiso. Must have taken Gateway to Technology-Robotics in 7th grade.
  - Advanced Robotics is a competition-based robotics class. Students wishing to take this class must get permission from the teacher. Participants will work in teams to learn various mechanical systems and then design and build radio-controlled robots to compete in various challenges using VEX robotics kits. Competitions potentially involve creating a robot that can push small dodge balls into the opposing team’s court, shoot baskets, or pick up other robots. Students can expect to compete against other teams in the class as well as other schools in the district. Students in this class will need to be creative, be able to improvise, build things without instructions, and work with others.

- **Pre-Engineering:**
  - Grade Level: 8th Grade
  - Pre-Engineering is a project-based problem-solving class for 8th graders. Students use design software in a computer lab to create 3d designs. Students also work in a shop and use various hand and power tools to create products such as CO2 race cars, Rube Goldberg Machines, magnetic levitation vehicles, and more.

- **Art**
  - Grade Level: 8th Grade
  - Art is a general art class with an emphasis on experimenting with materials and techniques. Students will explore two-dimensional and three-dimensional processes with a variety of art media (i.e. pencil, paint, clay, etc.). Students will learn art vocabulary and terms. They will make choices to create works of art based on the Elements of Art and design principles.

- **Fitness**
  - Grade Level: 7th and 8th Grade
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