at

Ockley Green Middle School

Forecasting Information and Instructions For Rising 8th Grade Students

It is the time of year when we ask students to share their preferences (forecast) about their elective classes for the coming school year. It is incredibly important that students forecast for their courses because it allows us to better balance classes, schedule teachers, and allocate resources.

At Ockley Green Middle School in 2026-27, students will take seven (7) classes per semester. Requirements vary slightly based on the program a student is enrolled in (neighborhood or dual language), and if they receive SPED or ELD services. The chart below illustrates the required courses in gray.

Class	Ockley Green Students	OG Students in Dual Language Immersion
1	Language Arts 8 (1 year)	Language Arts 8 (1 year)
2	Math: Common Core 8 OR Algebra 1-2*	Math: Common Core 8 OR Algebra 1-2*
3	Integrated Science C (1 year)	Integrated Science C (1 year)
4	PE/Health	PE/Health
5	Social Sciences A (1 year)	DLI Social Sciences 8 (1 year)
6	1-Full-Year Elective SPED/ELD class (as required)	DLI Language Arts 8 (1 year)
7	1-Full-Year Elective	1-Full-Year Elective SPED/ELD class (as required)

*NOTE: We are currently finalizing the Math placement process. Students will be mass assigned to a Math class and then the forecast will be changed after placement decisions are finalized.

WHAT TO KNOW BEFORE YOU FORECAST:

- Consider your electives carefully and read the elective course descriptions. We are not able to make changes to student schedules after the master schedule has been built except in the case of an error (duplicate class, wrong grade level class, student doesn't have prerequisites for class).
- We will do our best to enroll you into your preferred elective, but it is helpful to give us a variety of options when making your selections, in case you don't get your top choices.
- Students are not guaranteed elective selections. Elective forecasting is a tool for students to express preferences, which we try to incorporate in individual student schedules as we build the master schedule. We work hard to ensure the best possible schedule for all students, including honoring student choice and preference; we also know that it is beneficial for students to have the chance to try new things that they may not yet know are of interest.
- We are unable to honor requests for specific teachers in order to keep scheduling fair for all students. We have many caring and talented educators and look forward to helping you reach your potential.
- Students will make their Course Requests in StudentVue with the Online Course Request tool.

Ockley Green Middle School

8th GRADE ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 2026-27

Art: Intermediate

This course builds upon the foundations of beginner art, allowing students to further develop their artistic skills and explore a wider range of media and techniques. Students will delve deeper into concepts such as composition, color theory, and art history, while developing their own unique artistic voice.

Art: Advanced
Prerequisite: Art: Intermediate or Instructor Consent

This course is designed for students who have demonstrated a strong understanding and proficiency in visual arts. Students will refine their artistic skills, explore advanced techniques, and develop their own unique artistic style through independent projects and portfolio development.

Band: Concert (Intermediate)
Prerequisite: Band: Beginning or Instructor Consent

This course provides students with an introduction to the fundamentals of playing their instruments. Students will learn basic playing techniques, music theory, and ensemble skills. The goal is to develop a love of music and build a solid foundation for future musical growth.

Band: Symphonic (Advanced)
Prerequisite: Band: Intermediate or Instructor Consent

This course is designed for students who have achieved a basic level of proficiency in their chosen band instrument. Students will further develop their technical skills, expand their musical repertoire, and participate in ensemble performances. The goal is to foster musical growth and ensemble skills.

Dance: Intermediate
Prerequisite: Completion of Beginning Dance or Instructor Approval

This course is designed for students who have progressed beyond the beginning level in dance. Students will continue to develop their technical skills, expand their dance repertoire, and explore different dance styles. The goal is to prepare students for more advanced dance courses.

Dance: Advanced (Capstone)
Prerequisite: Successful completion of Intermediate Dance and Instructor Approval

This course is designed for students who have demonstrated a high level of proficiency in their chosen dance style. Students will refine their technical skills, expand their dance repertoire, and explore choreography and improvisation. The main goals are to build knowledge of professional industry standards and technical skill, assessed through rehearsals and performances.

STEM - Engineering

This elective course focuses on engineering design and problem-solving, providing students in grades 6-8 with the opportunity to apply their STEM skills to real-world challenges. Students will engage in hands-on projects, design challenges, and problem-solving activities to develop their engineering skills and knowledge.

STEM Elective 2

This course is for students who have already engaged in STEM Elective. This elective course provides students in grades 6-8 with the opportunity to explore various STEM fields, including engineering, technology, and computer science. Students will engage in

hands-on projects, design challenges, and problem-solving activities to develop their STEM skills and knowledge.

WEB Leadership 8 (Dragon Leaders)

This course provides 8th-grade students with opportunities to develop leadership skills through a variety of activities and projects specific to the Where Everybody Belongs (WEB) program. Students will explore leadership styles, communication strategies, and decision-making processes. The goal is to empower students to become effective leaders in their school to support new 6th grade students.

Spanish 1-2

This course provides students with a comprehensive introduction to the Spanish language and culture. Students will develop their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills and be proficient at NOVICE HIGH level while exploring the rich cultural heritage of Spanish-speaking communities. The goal is to build a solid foundation in Spanish and foster intercultural understanding. This course is for high school credit. (Students can potentially earn one Spanish 1-2 high school credit.)

Yearbook

This course provides students in grades 6-8 with hands-on experience in creating a yearbook, encompassing all aspects of the production process, from planning and design to photography and writing. Students will learn to capture and document school events, conduct interviews, write engaging captions and stories, and use layout and design software to produce a visually appealing yearbook.

Creative Writing/Speech & Debate

The first semester of this elective is creative writing. This course provides students in grades 6-8 with the opportunity to explore their creativity and develop their writing skills in various genres, including fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction. Students will learn to craft compelling narratives, experiment with language and style, and express their unique voices through writing. They will also receive feedback on their work and learn to revise and edit their writing for clarity and impact.

This second semester of this elective teaches students the basics of public speaking and debate. They will learn how to give persuasive speeches, take part in debates, and share their ideas clearly. The goal is to help students build confidence and improve their speaking and thinking skills.

Explore Film

This elective course introduces middle school students to film as an art form and a way to tell stories. Students will learn about film history, how to understand and analyze movies, and how films are made. The goal is to help students think critically about movies and understand why they are important.