

8th GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 2022-2023

DANCE

Ballroom 1

Shoes and proper dance attire required. Students are introduced to Pre-Bronze American and International style Latin, Swing, and Ballroom dance patterns, with opportunities for social, performance and competition applications. **FEE \$15.00**

Ballroom 2 - 8th Grade ONLY

Prerequisite: Ballroom 1. Shoes and proper dance attire required. Dancers move through levels of proficiency in Intermediate-Full Bronze American and International style Latin, Swing and Ballroom dance patterns with more technical instruction for performance and competition applications. **FEE \$15.00**

Ballet / Modern 1

An exploration of the disciplines of technique required for ballet and modern dance. Introduction to styles, structure and aesthetics of dance. **Proper dance attire required. FEE \$15.00**

Ballet 2 - 8th Grade ONLY

Prerequisite: Ballet/Modern. Ballet shoes and proper dance attire required. An intermediate technical approach to ballet skills, theory, history and styles. Ballet will use elements from yoga study. If student has been studying ballet for many years, pointe work at barre may be allowed, pending teacher's approval. **FEE \$15.00**

Tap/Jazz 1

Tap and Jazz shoes and proper dance attire required. An exploration of the disciplines of technique required for the tap and jazz dancer. Introduction to styles, structure and aesthetics of dance. **FEE \$15.00**

Tap/Jazz 2 - 8th Grade ONLY

Prerequisite: Tap/Jazz 1 (Ballet/Modern highly recommended.) Tap and Jazz shoes and proper dance attire required. Refer to Tap/Jazz I and be prepared for further study in developing Tap and Jazz skills, coordination, stretch, strength and style. **FEE \$15.00**

Modern Dance 2 - 8th Grade ONLY

Prerequisite: Ballet/Modern Dance Proper dance attire required. Building on the foundation of Modern 1, this class also starts to emphasize teaching/pedagogy. **FEE \$15.00**

MUSIC

Guitar 1

Students will learn to read music, identify notes, understand and be able to play different rhythms as written in music, basic harmony and composition. Students will develop fundamental skills in guitar technique, interpretation and performance while performing grade level literature via solos and ensembles. Class assessment includes the playing of individual musical excerpts and theory work, both written and played. **Guitar provided.** Required supplies: One audio (gaming style) headset (exact type will be specified by the instructor). **FEE \$50.00**

Guitar 2

Prerequisite: Guitar 1 Technique, interpretation, and performance skills are further developed along with an emphasis on ensemble playing. Harmony, composition, and improvisation are discussed. Guitar provided. The purchase of an audio (gaming style) headset is required (exact type will be specified by the instructor) **FEE \$50.00**

Chorus MS

Students will learn to read music, identify notes, understand and be able to sing rhythms as written in music, basic harmony and composition. Students will develop proper breathing and voice techniques for their individual voice while performing grade level literature via solos, ensembles and large group venues. Class assessment includes the playing of individual musical excerpts and theory work, both written and played. Required supplies: concert attire. **FEE \$10.00**

Keyboard 1

Students will learn to read music, identify notes, understand and be able to play different rhythms as written in music, basic harmony and composition. Students will develop basic keyboard technique while performing grade level literature via solos and ensembles. information. Class assessment includes the playing of individual musical excerpts and theory work, both written and played. Required supplies: One audio (gaming style) headset (exact type will be specified by the instructor). **FEE \$25.00**

Keyboard 2

Prerequisite: Keyboard 1 More emphasis on individualized learning and sight-reading. Theory, including major and minor scales, chords, etc. Assessment includes individually learned music, ensemble work, and theory performance. The purchase of an audio (gaming style) headset is required (exact type will be specified by the instructor) **FEE \$25.00**

Beginning Orchestra

Students will learn to play the orchestral instrument of their choice: violin, viola, cello, or double bass. Students will learn basic music notation reading through the study of this instrument. Students will play and perform Grade 1 string orchestral literature. Rhythm, pitch, posture, proper instrument position and music vocabulary will be developed. Class assessment includes the playing of individual musical excerpts and theory work, both written and played. Students are required to rent or purchase their instrument through local music stores or online vendors. Required supplies: Method Book *Essential Elements for Strings Book 1*, instrument, rosin, shoulder rest for violins and violas, and a rock stop for cellos and basses. **FEE \$25.00**

Intermediate Orchestra

Prerequisite: **Beginning Orchestra [or equivalent being 1 full year of public or private school instruction] or audition** Students will continue to study the orchestral instrument of their choice while playing and performing Grade 2 string orchestral literature. Students will continue to develop music basics while continuing instrument specific techniques. Class assessment includes the playing of individual musical excerpts and theory work, both written and played. Students are required to rent an instrument from local music stores or an on-line vendor. Required supplies: Method Book *Essential Technique for Strings*, instrument, rosin, shoulder rest for violins and violas, and a rock stop for cellos and basses. **FEE \$25.00**

Advanced Orchestra

Prerequisite: **Intermediate Orchestra [or equivalent being 2 full years of public or private school instruction] or audition** Students will continue to study the orchestral instrument of their choice while playing and performing Grade 3-5 string orchestral literature as well as perform for outreach events and District assessments. Rhythm, pitch, posture, proper instrument position and music vocabulary will be developed. Daily practice will be expected at home. *Students are placed at this level by the Director and must be fluent music readers.* Students are required to rent an instrument from local music stores or an on-line vendor. Required supplies: Instrument, rosin, shoulder rest for violins and violas, and a rock stop for cellos and basses. **FEE \$25.00**

Beginning Band

Students will learn to play the woodwind or brass instrument of their choice: flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, alto sax, tenor sax, trumpet, trombone, baritone or tuba. Students will learn basic music notation reading through the study of this instrument. Students will play and perform Grade 1 band literature. Rhythm, pitch, posture, proper instrument position and music vocabulary will be developed. Class assessment includes the playing of individual musical excerpts and theory work, both written and played. Students are required to rent or purchase their instrument through local music stores or online vendors. Required supplies: Method Book *Tradition of Excellence (for your instrument)*, instrument and instrument care supplies. **FEE \$25.00**

Intermediate Band

Prerequisite: **Beginning Band [or equivalent being 1 full year of public or private school instruction] or audition** Students will continue to study the band instrument of their choice while playing and performing Grade 2 band literature. Students will continue to develop music basics while continuing instrument specific techniques. Class assessment includes the playing of individual musical excerpts and theory work, both written and played. Students are required to rent or purchase their instrument through local music stores or online vendors. Required supplies: Method Book *Tradition of Excellence (for your instrument)*, instrument and instrument care supplies. **FEE \$25.00**

Advanced Band

Prerequisite: **Intermediate Band [or equivalent being 2 full year of public or private school instruction] or audition** Students will continue to study the band instrument of their choice while playing and performing Grade 3-5 band literature as well as perform for outreach events and District assessments. Students will continue to develop music basics while continuing instrument specific techniques. Class assessment includes the playing of individual musical excerpts and theory work, both written and played. Students are required to rent or purchase their instrument through local music stores or online vendors. Required supplies: instrument and instrument care supplies. **FEE \$25.00**

Percussion Ensemble

Students will learn to play all percussion instruments, including Snare Drum, Mallets and Timpani. Students will learn basic music notation reading through the study of these instruments. Students will play and perform Grade 1 percussion literature. Class assessment includes the playing of individual musical excerpts and theory work, both written and played. Students are required to purchase their own Vic Firth SD1 General Drumsticks and any gum rubber drum pad. Rental Fees Apply for the use of school owned instruments. **FEE \$25.00**

THEATRE

Theatre 1

Students in this collaborative class will learn about and explore all facets of theater from playwriting to set design to acting and directing. This class is a must for all students interested in theater – backstage and on stage. **FEE \$25.00**

Theatre 2 (Pre-AP Theatre) - 8th grade ONLY

Prerequisite: Theatre 1. Students in this collaborative class will delve into all aspects of theater including playwriting, directing, development of character, and learning about technical theater and design. **FEE \$25.00**

Musical Theatre Workshop - 7th & 8th grade

Students in this class will study vocalization for musical theater, dance for musical theater and play analysis, as well as participate in an in-class performance of a musical. **FEE \$25.00**

Stagecraft 8

Open to all 8th graders - Students' work focuses on learning the elements of technical theatre, which includes costumes, lighting, properties (props), publicity, scenery, and sound. Also important is students' technical knowledge of safety procedures and demonstrated safe operation of theatre equipment, tools, and raw materials. Public performances may serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. Students may be required to attend or participate in technical work, rehearsals, and/or performances beyond the school day to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom. **FEE- \$50.00**

VISUAL ART

Art Survey

An introductory course for students with little or no previous art experience and those who have not had the MSA 6th grade art introduction class. Students may not be enrolled in another visual art class while enrolled in Art Survey, and must successfully complete Art Survey before advancing to a higher level visual art class. Grades 7 and 8. **FEE \$40.00**

2 Dimensional/3 Dimensional Art MS

Prerequisite: Successful completion of 6th Grade Art or Art Survey and current art instructor approval. Grades 7 and 8. Students will be exposed to a variety of media in both two and three-dimensional design. Projects include still life, pen and ink, perspective, paper mâché' masks, painting, calligraphy, and ceramic clay. One research paper on famous artists is included. Grades 7 and 8 only. **FEE \$40.00**

8th Grade Drawing

Prerequisite: Successful completion of 6th Grade Art, Art Survey, 2D / 3D MS Art or Drawing 7 and current art instructor approval. Grade 8 only. This class is designed for students wishing to continue drawing classes. Students will continue exploring tools and materials as well as basic design principles. This course includes some 2D and 3D projects. **FEE \$40.00**

Pre-AP Traditional and Digital Art (8th Grade)

Prerequisite: Successful completion of one of the following Visual Art or Digital Art classes: Drawing 7, 2/D 3/D Art, Art Survey, Digital Illustration, or Art Technology, is required and current art instructor approval. In this class, students make their own choices to create art including what to make, how to make it, and what materials to use. Students will choose from painting, drawing, sculpture, or digital arts, will analyze and respond to works of art, develop and refine their own ideas, and constructively respond to the work of peers as it develops. Students will use a creative approach designed by the College Board which highlights observation, experimentation, and reflecting on making art. **8th Grade Only. FEE \$40.00**

Fiber/Craft Explorations

Prerequisite: Successful completion of 7th Grade Drawing, Art Survey or 2 Dimensional/ 3 Dimensional Art and current art instructor approval. Grade 8 only. An 8th grade survey course covering various art forms that use fiber as a main component. Projects include coiled basketry, tapestry weaving, silk painting, batik, painted floor cloths, crocheting, knitting and hand cast paper. Students write self-critiques at the completion of each project. **FEE \$40.00**

Jewelry Making

Prerequisite: Successful completion of 7th grade Drawing, Art Survey or 2 Dimensional/3 Dimensional Art and current art instructor approval. Grade 8 only. Students in Jewelry Making will experiment with paper, polymer clay, ceramic clay, wire and metal, leather, glass, wood, fiber and plastic in the creation of jewelry pieces. A main focus will be on the elements and principles of design and how they translate to jewelry. Students are taught terminology and proper use of tools and equipment. Students write self-critiques at the completion of each project. **FEE \$40.00**

DIGITAL ARTS & TECHNOLOGY

Digital Illustration 1

An introductory course to the skills and software used to take traditional drawings and create them digitally. Students will refine concepts, terminology, techniques, and applications of traditional and digital drawing to create original work. Students will learn the art of drawing and painting through the single or combined use of computers, Adobe Creative Cloud software, and peripherals. Students will also learn basic computer use and file management. Through the critique process, students evaluate and respond to their own work and that of their peers to measure artistic growth. This course incorporates hands-on activities, the use of technology, and the consumption of art materials. **FEE \$20.00**

Digital Illustration 2

Students will continue to refine and build upon concepts, terminology, techniques, and applications of traditional to digital drawing to create original work. Students will learn the art of drawing, painting, typography & photo manipulation through the single or combined use of computers and Adobe Creative Cloud software. Students will also learn the process of preparing files for professional purposes. Through the critique process, students evaluate and respond to their own work and that of their peers to measure artistic growth. This course incorporates hands-on activities, the use of technology, and the consumption of art materials. **FEE \$20.00**

Art Technology 1

Students will explore how they can apply sound, visuals, and other print and digital communication methods to fun and creative projects. Students will gain experience in a variety of Adobe products. Through hands-on experience in a technology laboratory setting, students will investigate the role of art in Audio & Video Technology, Film, Telecommunications, Printing Technology, Visual Arts, including Photography and Performance Arts. Students will gain knowledge of various technology tools while gaining practical business knowledge and professional leadership skills. Students will have the opportunity to earn their Digital Literacy IC3 Level 1 Certification. **FEE \$20.00**

Art Technology 2

Prerequisite: Art Technology 1 Students will continue to develop skills that can be applied to careers or additional CTE Programs/ courses in the Digital Arts & Technology career cluster. Students will further their skills across several Adobe products while creating professional-level audio/visual content. Professional processes and concepts will be taught in a laboratory setting using appropriate technology, equipment, and materials for the course. Making career choices and developing employability skills is a key component of Art Technology 2.

Pre-AP Traditional and Digital Art (8th Grade)

Prerequisite: Successful completion of one of the following Visual Art classes: Drawing 7, 2/D 3/D Art or Art Survey, or Digital Art classes: Digital Illustration or Digital Photo, is required and current art instructor approval.

In this class, students will create and discuss visual art using a creative approach designed by the College Board. The class highlights observation, experimentation, reflecting on and making art, visually and digitally, inviting students to analyze and respond to works of art, develop and refine their own ideas by drawing on a variety of source material, and constructively respond to the work of peers as it develops. Other topics will include concept art, craft, sketchbook assignments, and art history topics. **8th Grade Only. FEE \$40.00**

Yearbook Digital Media I

Prerequisite: Art Technology 1 and must be accepted through an application process.

This is a High School Level Class. Earn an Industry Standard Adobe In-Design Certification Each year, the staff's goal is to define and record the school year in an honest and introspective photographic historical record that creates lasting memories of student life, academics, clubs, our school community, and most importantly, the people who breathe life into our school. Members of the yearbook staff are entrusted to plan the yearbook from cover to cover. Under student leadership, we decide all content, conduct interviews, photograph images, write articles, design spreads, distribute yearbooks and sell and design advertising for the yearbook. It's a lot of work, a lot of fun, and it's an incredible real-world publishing experience that we take very seriously.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Comprehensive Fitness 1&2

Get in shape and learn how to stay that way with the disciplines of stretch, strength and variety in classes including sports, yoga, and aerobic activities. Some power walking and running included. An active class. MSA PE uniform and good sneakers required. **FEE \$10.00**

Tae Kwon Do

Learn basic self-defense skills, physical fitness, discipline and sports competition in this traditional martial art. Physical Education (PE) uniforms are required and available in the school store. Tae Kwon Do uniforms are optional and available from the instructor for an additional fee.

HIGH SCHOOL COURSES

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Students should be performing at a level 4 or 5 as reflected on the FSA ELA and maintaining an A/B average in their Language Arts classes.

Spanish I Honors

Requires an A/B average in Language Arts & Teacher's Recommendation. This high school course will enable students to begin to acquire proficiency in Spanish through a linguistic, communicative, and cultural approach to language learning. Emphasis is placed on the development of listening, speaking, reading and writing skills and on acquisition of the fundamentals of applied grammar. Cross-cultural understanding is fostered and real-life applications are emphasized throughout the course. **Students must maintain at least a B average.**

Spanish II

Prerequisite: Spanish I Honors. This course will enable students to begin to acquire proficiency in Spanish through linguistic, communicative, and cultural approach to language learning. Emphasis is placed on the development of listening, speaking, reading and writing skills and on acquisition of the fundamentals of applied grammar.

French I Honors

Requires an A/B average in Language Arts & Teacher's Recommendation. This course will enable students to begin to acquire proficiency in French through linguistic, communicative, and cultural approach to language learning. Emphasis is placed on the development of listening, speaking, reading and writing skills and on acquisition of the fundamentals of applied grammar. **Students must maintain at least at B average.**

French II

Prerequisite: French I Honors. This course will enable students to begin to acquire proficiency in French through linguistic, communicative, and cultural approach to language learning. Emphasis is placed on the development of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills and on the acquisition of the fundamentals of applied grammar.

MATH

Pre-AP Algebra I

Prerequisite: Recommendation of the Previous Year's Math Teacher, an A/B average in math and 3, 4 or 5 FSA Math score is required. High School Graduation Requirement. Passing score on Algebra I Assessment required. This course provides an introduction into algebraic concepts and processes that can be used to solve real-world mathematical problems. Enables students to become proficient in analyzing linear, quadratic, absolute value, polynomial, rational and radical equations, sets, real and complex numbers, exponents, graphing, formulas, systems of equations, inequalities and functions. Students investigate topics both analytically and graphically.

Pre-AP Geometry

Prerequisite: Recommendation of the Algebra I Math Teacher, A/B average in Algebra I class is required. Completion of Algebra I. This course develops algebraic and geometric concepts and processes that can be used to solve real-world problems. Major concept areas include fundamental properties of geometry, proofs, coordinate geometry, and right-triangle trigonometry.

ENGLISH

Pre-AP English I-II

Prerequisite: Recommendation of the Department Chair, A/B average in Language Arts class and FSA ELA score of 4 or 5 is required. This course develops skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students will be required to complete additional readings outside of class, and writing will be taught with college preparation in mind. This course will progress at an accelerated pace.

SCIENCE

Pre-AP Biology

Prerequisite: Passing score on placement exam - Biology is the study of living organisms, their origins, how they survive, reproduce, change over time, and interact with each other and their environments. The Pre-AP Biology curriculum is an introductory course taught in two semesters and counts as a high school class. The primary objective of the course is to provide students with a fundamental understanding of modern biology and scientific processes, building a foundation for success in the college level AP courses to follow.

Pre-AP Biology is recommended for high-achieving students and for students who have a particular interest in biology and the natural sciences. The course places a higher priority on developing critical thinking skills by examining real world problems. Laboratory investigations play a more prominent role in the Pre-AP course. **This course is required for graduation. Lab fee: \$30.00**

Any student taking a High School level course who does not have at least a B average at semester break, will be dropped from the course.

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