



2026-2027

## West Millbrook Magnet Middle School Choice Course Descriptions

ARTS CHOICES	COURSE DESCRIPTION
<b>Level I Band</b>	Emphasis is on the acquisition of basic musical skills as students learn to play a brass, woodwind, or percussion instrument.
<b>Level II Band (7<sup>th</sup> &amp; 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students)</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year <b>Prerequisite: Level I Band</b>
<b>Level III Band (7<sup>th</sup> &amp; 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students)</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Year <b>Prerequisite: Level II Band</b>
<b>Level I Chorus</b>	Students are introduced to the skills necessary for singing and playing music with accuracy and expression while interpreting the sound and symbols of music. Through the study of various genres and cultures students will analyze, evaluate, and understand the music and concepts from other areas.
<b>Level II Chorus</b>	Students apply correct singing technique and various elements of musical expression through developmentally appropriate and historic vocal literature. Students learn how to use traditional notation in order to learn music, and to respond correctly to conductors' gestures both in rehearsal and public performance. Students will study vocal music and its relationship to other cultures, eras, and geographical locations.
<b>Level III Chorus</b>	Students will continue to apply correct singing technique, study vocal health issues and various elements of musical expression through developmentally appropriate and historic vocal literature. Students will use traditional notation in order to learn music, and to respond correctly to conductors' gestures both in rehearsal and public performance. Students in this class may be asked to represent the school in public performances and should anticipate some after-school practices and evening performances.
<b>Magnet Percussive Studies</b>	<b>(Audition Required) Prerequisite: One year of band/choir or at least one year of lessons (piano/percussion). This is a performance-based ensemble.</b> Students will learn and perform in various styles, and pieces while mastering techniques needed for high school percussion ensembles and beyond. Students will perform with their performance ensemble and the concert bands at West Millbrook. Students will be required to have sticks, a drum pad, a method book and other materials.
<b>Visual Arts Exploratory</b>	This course introduces students to the elements of art through a variety of media that may include: drawing, painting, printmaking, mixed media, pottery, and weaving.

<b>Pottery / Sculpture - Visual Arts</b>	<b>Prerequisite: Visual Arts Exploratory.</b> Students will create their own work with a wide variety of media such as paper, wood, clay, plaster, paper mâché, or fabric. Students explore various cultures, art history and learn to think and write critically about master work as well as their own.
<b>Magnet Drawing I (7<sup>th</sup> &amp; 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students)</b>	Students are taught drawing techniques using various media. They work with line, value, and basic perspective. In addition, students will learn to think and write critically about master work as well as their own.
<b>Visual Composition I</b>	<b>Prerequisite: Visual Arts Exploratory.</b> Students will engage in deep study of the elements and principles of art centered on the curriculum set forth in the North Carolina Essential Standards for Visual Art. Two and three-dimensional techniques will be taught using a variety of media. Students explore various cultures, art history and learn to think and write critically about master work as well as their own.
<b>Visual Composition II (8<sup>th</sup> grade only)</b>	<b>(Audition Required)</b> Students will continue to develop their technical and artistic skills as they solve problems with their own choice of media. Students will be expected to write critical analysis of the work of others (including the masters) and their own.
<b>Introduction to Dance (6<sup>th</sup> grade only)</b>	This course introduces creative movement, improvisation, and choreography through basic modern dance techniques.
<b>Dance I</b>	This course continues developing skills and creativity through modern dance. Students may participate in formal and informal performance activities.
<b>Dance II</b>	<b>Prerequisite: Must have had Intro to Dance/Dance I in 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> grade.</b> Students will further develop their modern dance technique skills through a rigorous class with more complicated performance and choreographic projects. Students should anticipate some after-school practices and evening performances.
<b>Magnet Dance Ensemble (7<sup>th</sup> &amp; 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students)</b>	<b>(Audition Required)</b> A select group of dancers who create dances in a collaborative process. Dances are performed in the community and in the Dance Concerts. This course is for the serious dancer only. Performance is mandatory.
<b>Magnet Drama Production (7<sup>th</sup> &amp; 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students)</b>	<b>(Audition Required)</b> Students will continue to develop their acting skills through more challenging theatre projects. They will work collaboratively to incorporate all the technical elements (lighting, sound, scenery, costumes) into creating a production. Students should anticipate some after-school practices and evening performances.
<b>Magnet Introduction to Theatre (6<sup>th</sup> &amp; 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Students)</b>	This course is an overview of dramatic techniques. Students develop communication skills through study in dialogue, pantomime, improvisation, speech/diction, and role play.
<b>Magnet IBMYP International (7<sup>th</sup> &amp; 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students) Theatre II</b>	<b>Prerequisite: Magnet Introduction to Theatre</b>
<b>Magnet Tech Theatre I (7<sup>th</sup> &amp; 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students)</b>	<b>(Audition Required)</b> Students explore the various aspects of design and production for theatre. Areas of study may include scenery, lighting, sound, makeup, properties, costumes, and stage management.
<b>DESIGN CHOICES</b>	<b>COURSE DESCRIPTION</b>
<b>Computer Science Discoveries I</b>	Students will use a problem-solving process to address a series of puzzles, challenges, and real-world scenarios. They will learn how computers take input, output, store, and process information to help humans solve problems. Students will also learn how to create and share the content on their own web pages using HTML and CSS. They will also practice valuable programming skills such as debugging, using resources, and teamwork.
<b>Computer Science Discoveries II</b>	<b>Prerequisite: Computer Science Discoveries I.</b> Students will build on their coding experience as they program animations, interactive art, and games in the Game Lab. The course starts off with simple shapes and builds up to more

	sophisticated sprite-based games, using the same programming concepts and the design process computer scientists use daily. Students will also investigate the broader social impacts of computing. Through a series of design challenges, they will learn how to better understand the needs of others while developing a solution to a problem.
<b>Computer Science Discoveries III</b>	<b>Prerequisite: Computer Science Discoveries II.</b> Students will explore the importance of data in solving problems and how computers help in this process. Students explore the role of hardware platforms in computing and how different sensors can provide more effective input and output than the traditional keyboard, mouse, and monitor. Using Code.org's App Lab and Adafruit's Circuit Playground, students will develop programs that utilize the same hardware inputs and outputs that are found in smart devices. Students also get to look at how a simple rough prototype can lead to a finished product.
<b>Exploring Apparel &amp; Interior Design / Culinary Arts</b>	The modules covered in this course are: apparel, interior design, food service and hospitality.
<b>Exploring Nutrition &amp; Wellness / Exploring Childcare</b>	The modules covered in this course are: interpersonal relationships, nutrition and wellness, child development and education.
<b>Magnet IBMYP Creativity and Building</b>	In this hands-on class, students will embark on a journey of creativity and innovation as they utilize STEM skills to design and build models using LEGO bricks.
<b>Magnet Sports Management</b>	This middle school course will help students prepare, plan, organize and manage activities related to sports. Ex. P.E. sports tournaments, Hoops for Heart, pep rallies.
<b>Fundamentals of Ag Science / Exploring Animal &amp; Plant Science</b>	This middle school course focuses on the agricultural and medical industry with emphasis on the relationship of science and technology that affects agriculture, medicine, and health care.
<b>Exploring Environmental &amp; Natural Resources</b>	Students will learn about the importance of conserving our natural resources and ways we can help. They will explore air, water, soil, and forestry and have the opportunity to develop critical thinking skills as we dive into these topics. This course also covers the fundamentals of the animal and plant science industries. Students will learn about animal management practices, animal breeds, plant identification, plant anatomy, and careers within the animal and plant science industry.
<b>Exploring Food &amp; Agricultural Products / Exploring Agricultural Issues</b>	This middle school course introduces students to the industry of agriculture. Topics of instruction include animal science, agricultural science and technology, plant science, agricultural issues, natural resources, food science, stewardship, consumer agriculture, and careers in agricultural science.
<b>Exploring Business &amp; Entrepreneurship</b>	Explore the purpose and functions of business and the concepts of entrepreneurship. Focus on the characteristics of an entrepreneur and the entrepreneurial process. Gain the knowledge and skills for careers in business, finance, and marketing.
<b>Magnet International Relations and Global Leadership</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade Only:</b> This course will examine relationships between nations and dynamic ways to solve global conflicts through effective leadership. Students will engage in hands-on, cooperative learning to confront a range of topics with the perspective of an assigned country or organization. This course will emphasize collaborative and cooperative resolution of conflict to create civically engaged students who strive for peaceful problem solving and equitable, sustainable human development. Students will learn problem solving skills, writing skills, and public speaking skills throughout this course.

LANGUAGE ACQUISITION CHOICES	COURSE DESCRIPTION
<b>Beginning Spanish MS</b>	This course begins the study of the Spanish language and culture and is the first part in the Spanish curriculum series for high school credit. Major topics include greetings, conversation questions, telling time, classroom objects, asking for help, the parts of the body, infinitive verbs, expressing likes and dislikes, definite and indefinite articles, adjectives, subject pronouns, the present tense of –ar verbs, and the plurals of nouns and articles.
<b>Beginning Spanish 1 year</b>	<b>Prerequisite: Beginning Spanish MS.</b> This course continues the study of the Spanish language and culture, refining grammatical and vocabulary topics. Students who successfully complete this course should continue the Spanish curriculum series for high school credit by taking Advanced Spanish.
<b>Spanish I (High School Credit)</b>	<b>Prerequisite: Beginning Spanish 1 year.</b> This course continues the study of the Spanish language and culture, refining grammatical and vocabulary topics. Students who complete this course successfully and who pass the exit exam (worth 20% of the overall grade) may take Spanish II at the high school level.
<b>Spanish II (High School Credit)</b>	<b>Prerequisite: Spanish I.</b> This course continues the study of the Spanish language and culture, refining grammatical and vocabulary topics.
<b>Beginning French MS</b>	This course is an introduction to French language and culture. Major topics include classroom objects, numbers, colors, the calendar, greetings, telling time, weather expressions, common verbs, foods, the family, clothing, animals, basic prepositions, negative expressions, adjectives, and commands. Students who complete this course successfully should next take Intermediate French.
<b>Beginning French 1 year</b>	<b>Prerequisite Beginning French MS:</b> This course continues the study of the French language and culture. Major topics include an expansion of verbs and vocabulary, family vocabulary, interrogatives, negative expressions, adjectives, contractions, possessive adjectives, common idioms, the future tense, double verb construction, imperatives, demonstrative adjectives, interrogative adjectives, and forming questions.
<b>French I (High School Credit)</b>	<b>Prerequisite Beginning French 1 year:</b> This course continues the study of the French language and culture, refining grammatical and vocabulary topics. Major topics include common irregular verbs, clothing and shopping vocabulary, negative expressions, emphatic pronouns, double verb constructions, the past tense, comparative and superlative forms, relative pronouns, reflexive verbs, and direct object pronouns. Students who complete this course successfully and who pass the exit exam (worth 20% of the overall grade) may take French II at the high school level.
<b>Beginning Chinese 1 year</b>	<b>Prerequisite Beginning Chinese MS:</b> This course builds on the basics of Chinese as taught in the Beginning Chinese course or in the elementary program. A more formal introduction of grammar is included, as well as continued emphasis on listening, speaking, reading, writing, and culture.
<b>Chinese I (High School Credit)</b>	<b>Prerequisite Beginning Chinese 1 year:</b> This course continues the study of the Chinese language and culture, refining grammatical and vocabulary topics.