

2025-2026 8th Grade Course Descriptions

Full Year Electives:

Choir 7/8 (Full Year)- This full year choir will sing diverse and challenging literature and will also work on advanced sight-reading skills. This group will frequently represent the middle school at a variety of performances and may be required to participate in additional performances (field trips) above and beyond the required concerts.

Concert Band (MS)- This class is designed for the student who wishes to continue instruction on his/her instrument. Some seventh grade students may be included in Concert band, depending on their playing abilities and work ethic. Concert Band builds on fundamentals taught in the Beginning Band and Cadet Band. Concert band is not an isolated class, but rather the commencement of a program, which continues through Grade 12. Attendance at all performances is required. The student is expected to provide his/her own instrument, book, and supplies. Some instruments are available through the school district for a fee of \$125/year.

Orchestra 8- 8th Grade Orchestra prepares students for the exciting opportunities that await them in high school. Music becomes increasingly challenging and technique and musicianship are refined to a higher level. Students have the opportunity to play in both large and small ensembles and should be prepared to play for a variety of functions as well as regularly scheduled concerts.

French 1 (MS) – Students will learn to understand orally and to speak, read and write simple sentences and questions in French. Oral work and class participation are emphasized. Students become familiar with cultural differences between the USA and France through songs, food, dances and skits. Students will have the opportunity to earn High School credit for this course but need to be prepared for a more rigorous course as it follows the high school curriculum.

Recommended: “B” or above in ELA and Math

Spanish 1 (MS)- Throughout this course, students will develop basic communicative skills: reading, writing, speaking and listening. Hispanic culture will also be highlighted. Students will have the opportunity to earn High School credit for this course but need to be prepared for a more rigorous course as it follows the high school curriculum.

Recommendation: “B” or above in ELA and Math

Semester Encore Electives:

Broadcasting 8- 8th grade Broadcasting is a semester long course that prepares students for high school level broadcasting. Throughout the semester, students will help produce news shows for the entire student body. Units of study include: camera basics, editing techniques, interviewing procedures, writing skills, public speaking, and show production.

Choir 7/8 (Semester)- Step up the game in Choir and achieve a whole new singing level. Through daily rehearsal students continue the development of learning music reading skills as well as musical interpretation. Personal skills such as goal-setting, teamwork, leadership skills and self-discipline are

enhanced while learning a variety of music. Open to 7th and 8th graders, students can sing for a semester or sing for a full year. Concert participation is mandatory and will be included in your grade.

Explorations of Art and Design 7/8 - This course allows students to further explore two dimensional and three dimensional art techniques; implement acquired knowledge of the elements and principles of design; and explore a variety of media to attain a better understanding of the design processes and techniques. They will use creativity and understanding of these art techniques to create a variety of projects that may concentrate on: drawing and design, painting and color theory, printmaking, sculpture, and other multi-media explorations. Students will have the opportunity to study cultural and historical influences in art as they learn to reflect and express their own ideas and creativity through the visual arts. Students will also observe artwork in a way that helps them identify how the visual arts are connected to themselves and the world around them.

Family and Consumer Sciences 7/8 (FACS) - FACS is an exploratory semester course designed to give students an overview of topics covered within the Family and Consumer Sciences Department. This class is an exploratory course designed to help students become independent teens. During this course, students will learn about setting and reaching goals, discovering careers and the interview process, how to create a budget and why it is important, an introduction into business basics and entrepreneurship, food safety and sanitation, and food preparation skills with a focus on understanding what processed food is and how to choose a healthy lifestyle. The

cooking unit usually ends with a friendly baking competition between the kitchens which is always a crowd favorite.

Industrial Technology 7/8- This course will give students the opportunity to develop problem solving and thinking skills through hands-on projects. Each student will have an opportunity to build projects by utilizing design software and hand/power tools. Projects include a small box, tool tray, step stool, shelf, and other student created projects. This course will educate students on woodworking safety and process. Upon completion of this course students will have an understanding of the design process and projects to take home.

PLTW- Computer Science 7/8 Innovators and Makers - Have you ever wondered how code can be used in wearable tech, art exhibits, or mechanical devices? In this class, students learn about programming by blending hardware design and software development. Students are challenged to creatively use sensors and actuators to develop systems that interact with their environment. Designing algorithms and using computational thinking practices, they code and upload programs to microcontrollers that perform a variety of authentic tasks.

PLTW Robotics 7/8: Students trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Students use the VEX Robotics® platform to design, build, and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, toll booths, and robotic arms. Students will also use their knowledge of STEM to explore a topic such as electronics, magnetic fields, architecture, or mechanics and movement.

Speech and Debate 7/8 - This semester long course introduces students into the world of high school forensics. Students will continue to perfect their public speaking and debate skills, as well as dabble in competitive theatre events. This course will focus on public speaking, writing, literary interpretation and in-depth research. The units covered in this performance-based course are: Informative Speaking & Writing; Visual Aid Development and Implementation; Small Group Communication; The Research Process; Persuasive Speaking & Writing; Public Forum Debate; Impromptu Speaking; Prose or Poetry Interpretation

Theatre 7/8 - Get ready to perform in this upper level theatre class that focuses on theatre fundamentals, audition techniques, acting, and directing skills. Students will perform both monologues and duet scenes. Students get in touch with their inner playwrights as they write and produce theatre history scenes, “Trapped” scenes and “Mad Skits”. Students will read a classic murder mystery play and complete a set design for a unit set. Finally, they will try to keep a straight face during the hilarious improvisation unit.