

AVMS Possible 7th Grade Yearlong Elective Choice Descriptions 2025-26

Music (Band, Orchestra, Choir) All music classes are year-long electives

Band

In this combined 7th and 8th-grade band class, students will continue to develop their musical skills and deepen their understanding of instrumental techniques. Emphasis will be placed on individual instrument instruction, ensemble playing, and music theory. Students will have the opportunity to perform in several concerts throughout the year, showcasing their progress and musicality both at school and in the community. This course aims to foster a lifelong appreciation for music and a strong sense of camaraderie among students.

Most students continue with their same instrument from 6th grade band. If you are a beginning band student please talk to Mrs. Stevens when you sign up. Many students will be provided with a school instrument to use. No audition required.

Orchestra

In this combined 7th and 8th-grade orchestra class, students will continue to refine their skills on string instruments such as violin, viola, cello, and double bass. The course will focus on individual instrument technique, ensemble playing, and music theory specific to orchestral music. Students will have the opportunity to perform in several concerts throughout the year, showcasing their musical growth and ensemble cohesion. Through participation in orchestra, students will develop a deep appreciation for classical music and strengthen their teamwork and collaboration skills.

If you are a beginning string student please talk to Mrs. Stevens when you sign up. Many students will be provided with a school instrument to use. No audition required.

Choir

In this choir class, students will refine their vocal skills through vocal technique, sight-reading, and music theory. They'll explore diverse musical styles and genres for performances in school and the community, fostering unity and pride. Students will sing in multiple languages. Choir strives to cultivate a lifelong appreciation for choral music and enhances vocal abilities in a supportive, collaborative environment. No audition required.

****ASB (Student Leadership)** (Yearlong Selective Elective w/ application and possible interview)

Associated Student Body, or ASB, teaches the principles and dynamics of leadership. This course is designed to empower students to become effective leaders both on campus and in their own community. Students will explore various components of what it means to be an effective group member and leader through planning and implementing activities, programs, and events for their peers, including: dances, spirit weeks, lunchtime games/activities, sports tournaments, and fundraisers. Application required.

****Advanced Drama** (Yearlong Selective Elective w/ application and possible interview)

This class is for serious drama students who are interested in the dynamics of performance. Students will study all aspects of theater, including, but not limited to, acting, technical theater skills, stagecraft, stage management, script writing, dance, vocals, characterization, and pre/post production planning. Students will perform scenes, monologues, improvisation and skits, as well as participate in a full-length play or musical performance. Application and an audition required.

Possible Wheel Course Descriptions (one year-long or 2 semester long courses consisting of one or more of the below):

Career and Technical Investigation (CTI)

CTI Lab is a semester/year-long course that focuses on college and career readiness. Modules are offered in various in-demand career subjects, and are self-guided projects in which students learn to program a robotic arm; code to print 3D models and parts; learn SolidWorks software, used in industry to program a CNC lathe or mill to carve out their creation; use tools and equipment to do biomedical research; develop and produce videos with audio and music utilizing drone footage; learn to engineer and build a catapult; and many other hands-on, work-based projects.

Forensic Science

A fun, hands-on (labs) course designed to explore the evidence seeking process during crime scene investigations. Such topics and labs could include: tool impressions; food/digestion chemistry; counterfeit money investigation; material fiber content evaluations; fingerprinting evaluations; glass fractures; handwriting analysis; shoe print impressions; fractures and bones injury comparison; blood and hair sample analysis; and typewriter analysis. Many of these labs involve the use of chemically detecting evidence as well as solving mysteries!

Home Arts (Teen Living)

, including making simple food items. They also learn about personal grooming, fashion styles, clothing care, and how to hand sew and use sewing machines to complete projects. Child development and child care instructions are taught, complete with caring for a simulated/computerized baby for a 24-hour period. Other curriculum topics could include: interior design components, consumer awareness, budget management for a young adult, entrepreneurship, and careers associated with these subject areas.

Journalism

Students are introduced to the historical importance of journalism in America. They study basic principles of print and online journalism as they examine the role of printed news media in our society. They learn investigative skills, responsible reporting, and journalistic writing techniques as they read, respond to, and write their own news and feature articles. Students conduct interviews, research, write, and design their own publications or mini broadcasts.

Robotics

Robotics is a standards-based design and engineering course that promotes problem solving and innovation within the classroom setting. Throughout the year, students learn to work together, in design teams, taking on the roles of: scientists, engineers, technicians, draftsmen, programmers, horticulturists, geologists, and explorers as they analyze and collaboratively problem solve using problem-based challenges in which they create a multitude of robotic designs to fulfill specific tasks.