

SKYVIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL

2025-2026 ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

REVISED 1/30/2025

Title: Concert Band

Course Code: **UU420 7-8 BAND, CONCERT**

Grade Level Offered: 7th or 8th

Prerequisite: None Required

Length: **One Year**

Concert Band is a **beginning level group** intended to bridge the gap between elementary and the more intense Symphonic band. Instruction will solidify basic skills and prime those necessary for more advanced playing. This group will perform once per quarter, with the possibility of also performing at Mass Band Festival in the spring. **This band is for any student who is new to band or has less than a semester of band experience.**

Title: Symphonic Band

Course Code: **UU425 BAND, SYMPH**

Grade Level Offered: 7th or 8th by Audition

Prerequisite: **STUDENT MUST HAVE AT LEAST ONE YEAR OF BAND EXPERIENCE**

Length: **One Year**

This year's Symphonic Band is an opportunity to build on pre-existing instrumental skills through focuses on technique and ensemble learning experiences. This group will prepare to perform at school concerts each quarter (and potentially other engagements). Students who wish to be in Symphonic Band must have at least one full year of band experience. **If a student with less than a year experience feels they are capable of Symphonic Band, they must audition or meet with the music teacher for this band at the beginning of the school year.**

Title: Drum Line

Course Code: **UU460 DRUMLINE**

Grade Level Offered: 7th or 8th

Prerequisite: None Required

Length: **One Quarter**

This class is designed for those who have minimal experience in musical groups, but is also open to more advanced musicians. Students will learn to read rhythms and beginning-level pitches while combining in a performing ensemble of snare drums, tonal bass drums, quad-toms, and cymbals. This is a performing group and will showcase their learning at our regular SMS concerts.

Title: **Concert Choir/Mixed Choir**

Course Code: ***UU450 CHOIR, CONCERT (ONE QUARTER)***

Grade Level Offered: 7th or 8th

Prerequisite: None Required

Length: **One Quarter**

There is only one Choir. This is a co-ed group of new singers as well as more developed voices. ALL VOICES are welcome! Instruction focuses on vocal technique and ensemble tone, blend, and balance. This is a true-to-form vocal experience, intended for those who are willing to make a commitment to long-term participation. This group will prepare to perform at school concerts each quarter (and potentially other engagements).

Title: **Guitar**

Course Code: ***UU465 MS GUITAR***

Grade Level Offered: 7th or 8th

Prerequisite: None Required - Students encouraged to bring their own Guitar.

Length: **One Quarter**

Designed for students who are not in Band or Choir. This course is open to all students interested in playing the guitar. Individuals as well as groups will work on learning all strings of the guitar, music fundamentals, reading notes and chords.

Title: **Drama**

Course Code: ***VV505 7-8 DRAMA***

Grade Level Offered: 7th or 8th

Prerequisite: None Required

Length: **One Quarter**

This course is an introduction to basic acting skills. It may include the history of acting, acting techniques, improvisation, reader's theater, and a one act play creation and production. Students must be prepared to read, write and act in front of an audience.

Title: **Art Intro**

Course Code: ***AA415 ART INTRO***

Grade Level Offered: 7th or 8th

Prerequisite: None Required

Length: **One Quarter**

This is the first art class that every middle school student will take. This class will explore drawing with a variety of media, color theory and painting, art history and culture. Students will also get an opportunity to work 3-dimensionally with a papier-mâché mask.

Title: **2D Art Design 1**

Course Code: **AA460 2D ART DESIGN I**

Grade Level Offered: 7th or 8th

Prerequisite: Art Intro

Length: **One Quarter**

This class expands upon drawing and painting skills. Students will work with photorealism and abstract drawing styles as well as learn to work with watercolors, pen, and ink.

Title: **2D Art Design 2**

Course Code: **AA462 2D ART II**

Grade Level Offered: **8th ONLY**

Prerequisite: Art Intro and 2D Art Design 1

Length: **One Quarter**

This class expands upon drawing and painting skills as well as introduces a variety of mixed media techniques and printmaking.

Title: **Ceramics**

Course Code: **AA430 CERAMICS**

Grade Level Offered: 7th or 8th

Prerequisite: Art Intro

Length: **One Quarter**

This is a hand building, functional clay class. Students will work with ceramic clay and build a variety of functional items such as a bowl, vase, box and mug. Each item will be built with different construction techniques as well as glazed with different techniques.

Title: **Ceramics 2**

Course Code: **AA465 CERAMICS 2**

GradeLevel Offered: **8th ONLY**

Prerequisite: Art Intro and Ceramics 1

Length: **One Quarter**

This is a hand building, functional clay class. Students will work with ceramic clay and build a variety of functional items of the students own design. Students will use construction techniques covered in Ceramics 1 and design their own projects. There will be workshops on lidded containers and spouts. Techniques will be mixed and revisited in a new and innovative way.

Title: **Sculpture**

Course Code: **AA440 SCULPTURE**

Grade Level Offered: 7th or 8th

Prerequisite: Art Intro

Length: **One Quarter**

This is a 3-dimensional building class. Students will work with paper, clay, wire, plaster and papier-mâché. Students will work with abstract, stylized, and imaginative/fantasy styles of additive sculpture.

Title: **Graphic Design (New This Year)**

Course Code: **AA470 Graphic Design**

Grade Level Offered: 7th or 8th

Prerequisite: None required

Length: **One Quarter**

Digital Arts is the creative planning and execution of visual communication on the computer. Students will study and practice graphic design layout and concepts. Digital media will be used to do the drawing, layout, typography, photography, and digital manipulation of photographs involved in the production of visual communication. We will create flyers, Skyview graphics and personal monogram logos as well as website portfolios.

Title: **Woods 1**

Course Code: **II420 WOODS 1**

Grade Level Offered: 7th or 8th

Prerequisite: None Required

Length: **One Quarter**

This course is designed to introduce basic skills and knowledge of woodworking. Students will become familiar with working drawings, materials, measurement, safe and proper hand and power tool usage, project construction and finishing. Students can expect to build a bandsaw box of their own design.

Title: **Woods 2**

Course Code: **II425 WOODS 2**

Prerequisite: Woods 1

Grade Level Offered: **8th ONLY**

Length: **One Quarter**

This course is designed to reinforce and build upon skills and knowledge learned in Woods 1. Students will continue to familiarize themselves with working drawings, materials, measurement, safe and proper hand and power tool usage, project construction and finishing. More advanced projects will be constructed independently with instructor approval. Examples of previous projects: bookshelf, cutting boards, storage bench, chess boards, corner tables, Adirondack chairs, etc.

Title: **Cad Cam**

Course Code: ***II455 MS CAD CAM***

Grade Level Offered: **8th ONLY**

Prerequisite: None Required

Length: **One Semester**

CAD/CAM will serve as an introduction to the concepts, terminology, and techniques used in CAD (computer aided drafting). AutoCAD 2022 is the primary software we will be using. AutoCAD is the industry leading drafting program because it is versatile and the user interface and commands learned in AutoCAD transfer very easily to other drafting programs such as Inventor, Solidworks, and Chief Architect etc. AutoCAD is available on designated computers in KPBSD schools and is available to students for free. Students will also apply their drafting skills by using CNC (computer numeric controlled) machines: CNC plasma cutter and a laser engraver.

Title: **Metals/Welding**

Course Code: ***II440 METALS***

Grade Level Offered: **8th only**

Prerequisite: None Required

Length: **One Quarter**

This course is designed to introduce basic skills and knowledge of hot and cold metalworking processes. Students will become familiar with working drawings, measurement, materials, safety, hand and power tool usage, bending, cutting, and welding processes such as Oxy, Arc, and Mig.

Title: **Metals/Welding 2**

Course Code: ***II445 METALS***

Grade Level Offered: **8th only**

Prerequisite: Metals

Length: **One Quarter**

Continuation of Metals Class.

Title: **Construction**

Course Code: ***II430 CONSTRUCTION***

Grade Level Offered: **7th or 8th**

Prerequisite: None Required

Length: **One Quarter**

This course is designed to introduce basic skills and knowledge of residential construction (mainly framing). Students will become familiar with plans/blueprints, building materials, construction terminology, measurement, scale, safe and proper hand and power tool usage and project construction. Projects will be determined by students and completed as groups.

Title: **Robotics 1**

Course Code: **BB430 ROBOTICS**

Grade Level Offered: 7th or 8th

Prerequisite: None Required

Length: **One Quarter**

In this course students will build, program and test Lego robots. Students will learn block coding using the Lego NXT or EV3 software. They will program their robot so that it can perform various tasks using high quality motors and sensors. Students will need to have the ability to be a strong member of a team with good problem solving and communication skills in order to complete the robot challenges.

Title: **Robotics 2**

Course Code: **BB435 ROBOTICS II**

Grade Level Offered: **8th ONLY**

Prerequisite: Robotics 1

Length: One Quarter

Students will design and build robots utilizing engineering principles and the Design Process. Students will use RobotC to learn line coding to program their robots. The students will also use the VEX Robotics® platform to design, build, and program real-world objects such as pull toys, spinning signs, drag racers and Rube Goldberg machines.

Title: **Design & Modeling**

Course Code: **II450 DESIGN AND MODELING**

Grade Level Offered: **7th or 8th**

Prerequisite: None Required

Length: **One Quarter**

How do you design a house that will withstand an earthquake? How do you elevate a golf ball in the air that is 6 inches away from the ground and wall? These are the types of questions that engineers try to answer by using the Design Process. Students will create prototypes and use the computer software SketchUp® to create virtual 3D images of their designs that will illustrate their solutions to a variety of problems and challenges.

Title: **Student Leadership**

Course Code: ***XX510 STDNT LEADERSHIP***

Grade Level Offered: 7th or 8th

Prerequisite: None Required

Length: **One Quarter**

Students will have a chance to put their leadership skills into practice when they play challenging games that are designed to illustrate the core concepts of leadership. After the game and lesson, we will then discuss what happened to focus on the essential elements of group dynamics, goal setting, organization, communication, problem solving, and/or conflict resolution.

Title: **Business & Information Systems**

Course Code: ***BB410 BUS/INFO SYS***

REQUIRED FOR ALL 7TH GRADE and 8th grade who have not taken it

Length: **One Quarter**

This class is designed to help you become a better typist and more fluent in the use of the computer. In this class we spend approximately 20 minutes a day on keyboarding. The remaining time is spent learning Microsoft Word and Excel. There is no lab fee for this course.

Title: **Careers**

Course Code: ***XX535 CAREER PATHS***

REQUIRED FOR ALL 8TH GRADE

Length: **One Quarter**

The students will use the Naviance website to explore Work Values and Career opportunities. They will also be introduced to financial planning through the Financial Peace School Curriculum presented by Dave Ramsey.

Title: **Hunter Safety**

Course Code: ***PP420 PROJ ADVNTR***

Grade Level Offered: 7th or 8th

Prerequisite: None Required

Length: **One Quarter**

Students will study various topics related to enjoying the outdoors. Topics will include: bear safety, knot tying and ADF&G Basic Hunter Education.

Title: **Rocketry**

Course Code: **XX450 EXPLORATIONS**

Grade Level Offered: 7th or 8th

Prerequisite: None Required

Length: **One Quarter**

Students will learn principles of physical science through extensive hands-on experimentation, primarily with straw rockets and solid fuel rockets. Launch data will be collected, graphed, and analyzed in order to make modifications and predictions for future launches.

Title: **Computer Tech / E-Gaming**

Course Code: **XX520 COMPUTER TECH**

Grade Level Offered: 7th or 8th

Prerequisite: None Required

Length: **One Quarter**

This course is designed to teach pro-social and pro-academic behaviors. It will inspire students to learn 21st-century skills with respect to computer technologies and competitive activities. The content covers learning standards in areas such as maintaining healthy practices, self-management and interpersonal communications, as well as an overview of eSports gaming; all supporting Computer Sciences and Digital Literacy standards. In the 21st century, the use of technology and being online are a way of life; this is why coaching students to model good digital citizenship and safe online behavior takes on greater importance. This course will be transformative for kids who otherwise might be disengaged from academics; it will provide a hands-on learning experience that promotes an environment of overall health and wellbeing utilizing 21st Century Skills.

Title: **French 1**

Course code: **WL400 French 1**

Grade Level Offered: **7th or 8th**

Prerequisite: None Required

Length: **One Quarter**

An introductory course to the basic skills of the French language: speaking, listening, reading, and writing. The use of the French language in practical situations will be stressed along with a gradually advancing study of grammatical aspects. General knowledge of the geography and lifestyles of the Francophone world will be integrated into the course through the use of the materials, workbook sheets, videos, audio, and other sources such as from the internet.

Title: **Physical Education**

Course Code: **PP435 MS PE/HEALTH**

Grade Level Offered: **7th/8th**

Prerequisite: None

Length: **One Year**

Students will learn and complete dynamic warmups daily. Students will learn the skills involved in playing a team sport such as, but not limited to: soccer, basketball, volleyball, wiffle ball, kickball, and dodgeball. Students will also swim one day per week and will need a swimsuit. This swimming accommodates beginning/non-swimmers through advanced swimmers. The students will learn personal fitness techniques using our crossfit gym such as kettlebells, dumbbells, barbells, and boxes. As weather permits, students may also go outside to go biking, snowshoeing, and nordic skiing.

Title: **Physical Education - Swimming $\frac{3}{4}$ days a per week**

Course Code: **PP415 8 PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

Grade Level Offered: **7th/8th**

Prerequisites: None

Length: **One Year**

Students will swim 3 or 4 times a week and will need a swimsuit. Students will work on all swimming strokes to learn or improve on them: swim long distances (width of pool), learn to dive, and possibly learn some lifeguarding techniques. Students will also compete in some water sports such as water volleyball and water polo. On non-swim days, students will be in the gym lifting weights, working on cardio, or playing a team sport such as, but not limited to: soccer, basketball, volleyball, badminton, pickleball, wiffleball, kickball,, and dodgeball. As weather permits, students may also go outside to go biking, snowshoeing, and nordic skiing.