

6th Grade Elective Course Descriptions

Art 6:

In 6th grade, students will be introduced to the elements of art. The elements of art are the foundation for any artwork in the future and include projects using line, shape, color, value, form, texture, and space. Understanding these fundamentals will set students up for success in 7th-grade art. We will use a different type of medium for each project to explore the vast options of art and design. Some projects include clay, painting, and mixed media. Each project will encourage creative thinking and problem-solving.

Beginning Band 6:

Students will learn the basics of playing a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument. No previous experience is necessary. They will be expected to practice at home on a regular basis to master the fundamentals of their instrument. The band will perform beginning-level music of various styles and put on two evening concerts for friends and family. This is a year-long class that meets every other day.

Concert Choir 6:

The Concert Choir course will teach students about their developing voices. Through class rehearsals and performances, Concert Choir integrates auditory, vocal, kinesthetic, and aesthetic elements of choral music. Particular attention will be paid to ensemble participation in rehearsal and performances. The choir will perform appropriately leveled music of various styles and two evening concerts for friends and family.

Family and Consumer Sciences Exploratory I:

Family and Consumer Sciences Exploratory I students will prepare to be life-ready as they manage individual, family, career, and civic roles and responsibilities. Students explore human development, relationships, personal environments, nutrition and wellness, textile skills, personal financial skills, career opportunities, and leadership skills. Contextual instruction and student participation in co-curricular career and technical student organization (CTSO) activities will develop leadership, interpersonal, and career skills.

Intro to Technology & Engineering:

Students combine resources and techniques to create systems, attaining comprehension of how technological systems work. Students will explore, design, analyze, and evaluate technological systems. By simulating systems and assessing their impacts, students gain insight into approaching the problems and opportunities of a technological world. Students will also explore technology-oriented careers.

Physical Education 6:

Students will improve their fitness level in the four main areas of physical fitness: cardiovascular endurance, abdominal strength, upper body strength, and flexibility. Students will demonstrate positive attitudes toward classmates and good sportsmanship toward teammates, opponents, and officials. Students will also participate in various sports and games such as flag football, indoor soccer, speedball, tennis, kickball, ultimate frisbee, volleyball, wiffle ball, basketball, and track and field. Throughout the course, health education will be incorporated. Along with understanding how physical activity can greatly benefit one's life, students will also learn the importance of making healthy decisions. Covered topics include nutrition, physical activity, communicable and non-communicable diseases, the risks of tobacco, alcohol, and drugs, using medicines wisely, building character, building healthy relationships, body systems, mental and emotional health, conflict resolution, violence prevention, safety.

****Every 6th-grade student will be required to take PE.****

Spanish Exploratory 6:

During this course, students will be introduced to basic Spanish vocabulary and conversational phrases while exploring various aspects of Hispanic culture. They will also explore units on colors, numbers, school supplies, days, months, seasons, weather, and clothing.

7th Grade Elective Course Descriptions

Art 7:

Students will be introduced to various projects using the Principles of Design. The Principles of Design are an extension of the Elements of Art and will help students understand how to organize their artwork to make it more appealing to the viewer. The Principles of Design are Balance, Contrast, Emphasis, Movement, Pattern, Rhythm, and Unity. Seventh grade will use a variety of media, including oil pastel, chalk pastel, clay, and painting. Independent projects will be introduced in 7th-grade art so students can explore mediums that they enjoy working with the most. Each student will learn about project presentations and properly displaying artwork in a gallery setting.

Band 7:

Students will learn the basics of playing a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument. They will be expected to practice at home regularly to master the fundamentals of their instrument. The band will perform beginning-level music of various styles and put on two evening concerts for friends and family. This is a year-long class that meets every other day.

****If a student wants to begin band in 7th grade, the student/parent must speak with Ms. Carr (band teacher) prior to being placed in band ****

Career Investigations:

This course will help students identify and demonstrate the workplace skills that employers desire in their future employees. Students analyze their personal assets; explore career clusters, career pathways, or occupations, and draft an Academic and Career Plan based on their academic and career interests.

****All 7th-grade students will take this course for a quarter during their PE class****

Concert Choir 7:

Students will learn about their developing voices through the Concert Choir course. Concert Choir integrates auditory, vocal, kinesthetic, and aesthetic elements of choral music through class rehearsals and performances. Particular attention will be paid to ensemble participation in rehearsal and performances. The choir will perform appropriately leveled music of various styles and perform two evening concerts for friends and family.

Spanish Exploratory 7 I:

During this course, students will be introduced to basic Spanish vocabulary and conversational phrases while exploring various aspects of Hispanic culture. Students will explore units on colors, numbers, school supplies, days, months, seasons, and weather.

Spanish Exploratory 7 II:

Students will continue building upon basic Spanish vocabulary and conversational phrases during this course while exploring various aspects of Hispanic culture. They will also begin learning how to use basic grammatical structures in the Spanish language as they explore units on family members, food, clothing, and the marketplace.

PREREQUISITE: Students must have taken Spanish Exploratory 6 to take this course

Physical Education 7:

Students will improve their fitness level in the four main areas of physical fitness: cardiovascular endurance, abdominal strength, upper body strength, and flexibility. Students will demonstrate positive attitudes toward classmates and good sportsmanship toward teammates, opponents, and officials. Students will also participate in various sports and games such as team handball, soccer, lacrosse, tennis, kickball, ultimate Frisbee, volleyball, wiffle ball, basketball, and track and field.

Throughout the course, health education will be incorporated. Along with understanding how physical activity can significantly benefit one's life, students will also learn the importance of making healthy decisions. Covered topics include nutrition, physical activity, communicable and non-communicable diseases, the risks of tobacco, alcohol, and drugs, using medicines wisely, building character, building healthy relationships, body systems, mental and emotional health, conflict resolution, violence prevention, safety.

****All 7th-grade students are required to take PE.****

Technological Systems:

Students use the engineering design process to guide them through various hands-on activities and projects, utilizing safe use of tools, materials, and techniques to solve problems. Students explore their relationship to technology and engineering, and how technology affects the world around them, as well as careers in the fields of technology and engineering.

8th Grade Elective Course Descriptions

Advanced Art 8:

Advanced Art is designed to provide a foundation for high school courses. Emphasis is placed on understanding the Elements of Art and Principles of Design as a basis for composition. Students will explore a variety of artists, art processes, and materials, such as drawing, painting, printmaking, two- and three-dimensional design, and digital art. Student artwork will reflect aesthetics and cultural and historical contexts. Willingness to get involved in the creative process is an important factor for this class.

PREREQUISITE: B or higher in previous art class and recommendation from Mrs. Mann (art teacher)

Advanced Band 8:

Students will continue to expand upon musical skills. Students are expected to practice their instruments at home on a regular basis in order to reach a high level of musicianship. The band will perform music at an advanced level, which will include more complex rhythms, time and key signatures, as well as acquire an extended range to the higher and lower limits of their instruments. There will be numerous performance opportunities including at least two concerts for family and friends, District Concert Band Assessment, a spring trip, and graduation ceremonies. The band may also combine with the high school concert band in the spring to help introduce students to the band at the high school level. This is a year-long course that meets every other day.

****If a student wants to begin band in 8th grade, the student/parent must speak with Ms. Carr (band teacher) prior to being placed in band****

Art 8:

Art 8 is a semester-long course that allows students to begin working on more detailed projects. Each assignment focuses on different art mediums allowing students to begin to feel more confident using these mediums. The eighth-graders will focus on one artist for each project and use the artist's work as inspiration for their own. Some projects involve students working in groups and collaborating. Students will also begin to learn about how to prepare work for a gallery setting and have an opportunity to see artists in action. This class will prepare them for a high school art setting with more time and focus on each project.

Concert Choir 8:

Students will learn about their developing voices through the Concert Choir course. Concert Choir integrates elements of auditory, vocal, kinesthetic, and aesthetic dimensions of choral music through class rehearsals and performances. Particular attention will be paid to ensemble participation in the context of rehearsal and performances. The choir will perform appropriately leveled music of various styles and will put on two evening concerts for friends and family.

Inventions & Innovations:

Students apply the engineering design process to plan, build, and communicate inventions or innovations that address contemporary technological problems facing them, their community, and the world. This hands-on course allows students to apply creativity and innovation that emphasizes working in teams and safely using technological and engineering tools and equipment.

Make It Your Business:

This course introduces students to the dynamic world of business ownership and entrepreneurship. Students explore concepts and techniques for planning and navigating the challenges of operating a business using best practices, ethics, and management skills. Course

focus includes product/service planning, financial statements, marketing concepts, sales and customer service, and basic economic principles necessary for successful business operation. Students operate the school incentive store.

Photography:

Photography focuses on the basics of DSLR camera functions and how to use all the functions of the camera. Students will learn how to manually adjust the camera on each setting. They will be introduced to editing their photos in Photoshop or a similar program. Students will also learn camera history and how to explore digital technologies, practice digital skills and use digital cameras. In addition, students will take photos that will be displayed in the school yearbook.

Physical Education 8:

Students will improve their fitness level in the four main areas of physical fitness: cardiovascular endurance, abdominal strength, upper body strength, and flexibility. Students will demonstrate positive attitudes toward classmates and good sportsmanship toward teammates, opponents, and officials. Students will also participate in various sports and games such as flag football, tchoukball, softball, volleyball, tennis, kickball, ultimate frisbee, wiffle ball, basketball, and track and field. Health education will be incorporated throughout the course. Covered topics include nutrition, physical activity, substance abuse prevention, building healthy relationships, social skills, abstinence, body systems, mental and emotional health, conflict resolution, violence prevention, safety, community and environmental health.

***Spanish I:**

This beginner course will focus on high-frequency words and phrases used in the language in order to maximize the student's ability to communicate and understand quickly. In this introductory course, the primary objective is Spanish comprehension (reading and listening) while also helping students develop their Spanish production (writing and speaking) naturally. Additionally, students will enhance their communication in Spanish by studying, in Spanish, particular cultural aspects of the Spanish-speaking world. This is a high school level course that 8th graders will receive high school credit for. This is a year-long course.

PREREQUISITE: Passing score for Grade 7 Reading SOL and B or higher in English 7