

## 2024-2025 ELECTIVE COURSE OPTIONS FOR 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS

### Hilburn Academy

Elective courses are not required subject areas like reading and math, but are optional courses that may be of interest to your child. Each middle school offers unique elective courses that your child can choose to take. The elective courses listed below are options for 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. Your child will select 6 electives from this list, one of them being Healthful Living/PE. Your elementary school will support your child in entering their selections in our system. You can find out more information on our school's website:

<https://www.wcpss.net/domain/8186>

It is important to note that the availability of elective courses is dependent upon each school's master schedule, and choosing an elective does not guarantee its availability in your child's individual schedule.

Course	Course Description
<b>Visual Arts Exploratory</b>	<i>This course introduces students to the elements of art through a variety of media that may include: drawing, painting, printmaking, mixed media, and weaving. Application of these elements to the students' own original artwork is the major emphasis while being introduced to art history and critical analysis of master work as well as their own.</i>
<b>Music Exploratory</b>	<i>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.</i>
<b>Yearbook</b>	<i>This course allows students to examine journalistic writing and publishing. Students learn the fundamentals of yearbook design from theme development, to marketing and distribution. Communication skills are developed through the use of oral language, written language, and other media/technology to complete activities including interviewing, organizing information, writing various journalistic pieces such as feature stories, sports stories, student and faculty profiles, etc. Additionally, students refine their revisions, editing, and proofreading skills and learn the basics of page layout and design. Collaborative work efforts, the use of technology as a publishing tool, and development of responsibility are emphasized.</i>
<b>Healthful Living (PE)</b>	<i>Healthful Living is required for all 8th grade students and includes health education and physical education. These two courses complement each other as students learn how to be healthy and physically active for a lifetime. Because our health and physical fitness needs are so different from a generation ago, the nature of healthful living is changing. Poor health choices (i.e., use of alcohol and other drugs, poor nutrition, and physical inactivity) now account for more than 50% of the preventable deaths in the United States.</i>
<b>Beginning Band (year long)</b>	<i>Emphasis is on the acquisition of basic musical skills as students learn to play a brass, woodwind, or percussion instrument. Band classes prepare several concert compositions that are performed for an audience. Students should anticipate some after- school practices and evening performances.</i>
<b>Introduction to Theatre</b>	<i>This course is an overview of dramatic techniques. Students develop communication skills through study in dialogue, pantomime, improvisation, speech/diction, and role play.</i>
<b>Newspaper</b>	<i>This course allows students to examine the various types, purposes, and effects of journalistic styles and designs. Students learn different types of journalistic writing, including news stories, feature stories, sports copy, and editorials. Assignments include writing, proofreading, constructing layouts, and using photographs and artwork. Emphasis is on developing creativity, using imagination, and stimulating student interest in the communication</i>

	<i>media, especially in the area of visual literacy. This course may be taught in combination with Yearbook.</i>
<b>Spanish Beginning Less Than 1 Year</b>	<i>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. Students who successfully complete this course should continue the Spanish curriculum series for high school credit by taking Intermediate Spanish.</i>
<b>Coding in Minecraft (Introductory)</b>	<i>Design algorithms using the Minecraft platform. Investigate how to determine the outcome of running a series of programming statements. Perform the process of debugging and resolving problems in algorithms. Explore the knowledge and skills for careers in the Computer Science, IT, and Technology pathways.</i>
<b>Engineering: Invention and Innovation I (Semester 1)</b>	<i>Design and engineer systems to accomplish specific goals or processes. Dissect objects to locate and troubleshoot potentially sources of failure. Design, build, and document prototypes for various engineering design challenges. Explore the knowledge and skills for careers in the Computer Science, IT, and Technology pathways.</i>
<b>Engineering: Invention and Innovation II (Semester 2)</b>	<i>Discover and use the upcycling process. Design and build prototypes, solve design problems, and write interactive stories using the design process. Explore the knowledge and skills for careers in the Computer Science, IT, and Technology pathways.</i>
<b>Engineering: Technological Systems I (Semester I)</b>	<i>Design and engineer systems to accomplish specific goals or processes. Design, build, and document prototypes for various engineering design challenges. Explore the knowledge and skills for careers in the Computer Science, IT, and Technology pathways.</i>
<b>Engineering: Technological Systems II (Semester 2)</b>	<i>Dissect objects to locate and troubleshoot potential sources of failure. Design, build, and document prototypes for various engineering design challenges. Explore the knowledge and skills for careers in the Computer Science, IT, and Technology pathways.</i>
<b>Math Acceleration and Support (by invite only)</b>	<i>This course is designed for students who need additional instruction and support in gaining grade level mathematics skills, problem-solving strategies, test-taking skills, and mathematical thinking in authentic contexts. MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM PLANNING GUIDE 2024-2025 22 Activities will focus on the use of manipulatives to build understanding of mathematical concepts and the use of cooperative and individual activities that practice and strengthen grade level skills and ability in mathematics. Technology, reading and writing for greater understanding in mathematics will be incorporated where appropriate.</i>
<b>Reading Acceleration and Support (by invite only)</b>	<i>Available for grades 6, 7, and 8, this course is for students who need additional instruction, support, and/or extensions in comprehension building, vocabulary, and reading. Direct strategy instruction will occur with extended opportunities for reading both fiction and nonfiction texts. Students will have the opportunity to self select texts and set individual reading goals. Instructional strategies will include teacher read aloud, paired reading, literature circles, and building of independent reading time.</i>