

# CEDAR MIDDLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION FORM

8

**All 8th-grade students will be placed in the following classes:**

Language Arts 8 (0135), Math 8 (1125), Social Studies (1935),  
Science (2935), Physical Education (4940) & 2 Electives or Support Classes  
(Determined by CMS)

**Students will be considered for honors courses if:**

- Grade of A or B in subject areas
- Teacher online recommendation
- Assessment data

## **Electives:**

**Please select two of your top choice electives as “request” on your online registration and three as “alternate” electives. Please refer to the Cedar course descriptions on the next page before making your selections.**

***\*Application and/or interview required***

(4575) Adv. Band (**One year experience required**)  
(4610) Beg. Band  
(4700) Strings (**One year experience required**)  
(4695) Beg. Strings  
(4710) Jazz Ensemble/Beg. Percussion  
(4595M) Adv. Percussion (**One year experience required playing any instrument**)  
(4475) Choir  
(5320) [Band Color Guard](#)  
(9181M) \*AVID II  
(9160) \*ASB/Leadership [ASB Application](#)  
(3905) Art/Painting  
(3915) Beg. Art  
(9931) Adv. Art (**One year experience preferred**)  
(6495) Home Economics  
(6525) Adv. Home Economics (**One year experience preferred**)  
(0360) \*Yearbook (**Current ELA grade of an A or B required**) [Yearbook Application](#)  
(0385) \*Speech/Debate [Speech & Debate Application](#)  
(7005) Computers  
(2010) Cultural Studies  
(4400) Spanish 1  
(4402M) Spanish 1B (**Must have taken Spanish 1A in 7<sup>th</sup> grade & teacher recommended**)  
(4905) P.E. 7-8/Health and Fitness  
(8945) Exploratory/Esports  
(0365) Fiction, Film, and Writing  
(4800) Beginning Drama  
(4861) Theater Production & Film Study  
(4862) Introduction to Stagecraft & Filmmaking  
(0370) Creative Writing  
(3071) Environmental Science and Sustainability/Greenhouse  
(9998) AVID Peer Tutor  
(7799) College and Career Readiness/Finance  
(0098) Office Aide [Office Aide](#)  
(9000) Teacher Aide/Wellness TA [Wellness TA Application](#)

**\*\*\*Please note that Cedar Middle School electives are not guaranteed and are based on availability and enrollment! You must complete your online registration through your Student Portal by Friday, April 4th.\*\*\***

## 8th Grade Cedar Middle School Elective Course Descriptions

### Please Note: Electives are subject to availability and staffing

**Advanced Band** - This course is for students who wish to continue learning their instrument and expanding their musical abilities. Instruments in this class include flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, horn, trombone, baritone, tuba, and percussion. This course is designed to prepare the musician for high school level band. Advanced Band also requires marching and participation in parades and other events throughout the year. Marching in parades and participating in these events means that students receive physical education credit. Each student is required to get a physical and a doctor will fill out Cedar Middle School Athletics Card to participate in certain events. **(One year experience required)**

**Beginning Band** – This course is an introductory course for students who have never played a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument before. This class will focus on learning musical techniques including beginning music theory, and the pedagogy for each instrument. Each student will learn the discipline and determination that it takes to learn a musical instrument. It will also teach an appreciation for music and playing a musical instrument. This class will also prepare the student for the advanced band course.

**Strings** – This course is meant for intermediate and advanced students who want to play a stringed instrument. These instruments include violin, viola, cello, and bass. This course will focus on orchestral techniques, intermediate and advanced music techniques, and the historical culture of string instruments and composers. This course will also prepare the student for orchestra at the high school level. This course also participates in various festivals throughout the year. **(One year experience required)**

**Beg. Strings 7/8** - This course is an introductory course for students who have never played a string instrument before. The instruments offered are violin, viola, cello, and bass. This class will focus on learning musical techniques including beginning music theory, and the pedagogy for each instrument. Each student will learn the discipline and determination that it takes to learn a musical instrument. It will also teach an appreciation for music and playing a musical instrument. This class will also prepare the student for the advanced strings course.

**Choir** – This course is a vocal ensemble that focuses on learning the vocal and choral techniques needed to learn how to sing. This class will teach vocal pedagogy, the historical and cultural backgrounds of different vocalists, and the analysis of different song lyrics. This course will also focus on learning solfege, different listening techniques, and vocal health.

**Beg. Percussion**- Percussion consists of learning the skills and determination it takes to play a percussion instrument. Students will learn to play pitched and non-pitched percussion instruments which include: Xylophone, Piano, Snare Drum, Bass Drum, etc. Students will also be learning basic music notation to learn different rhythmic elements. There is no prior music experience required to be in this ensemble.

**Advanced Percussion Ensemble** - consists of learning advanced skills and pedagogy that it takes to play a percussion instrument. Students will learn to play advanced techniques in a percussion ensemble. Students will also be learning advanced music notation. **To be in this ensemble you must have had at least one year of experience in any music ensemble and know how to read music notation**

**Color Guard** - Color Guard consists of Dance, Flag, and Rifle and this class participates in the same events as the Advanced Band Members. Students develop skills in song, flag, and precision drill. Students also develop routines for marching events. This class is an audition-only class with try-outs held in the Spring Semester of the previous year. This is a course that takes the place of physical education and a physical completed by a doctor needs to be completed to participate in this class.

**AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination)** – This course provides a support system for students in middle school who want to attend college. Students will focus on organizational skills, Cornell notes, writing, and tutorials. *\*Application and/or interview required.*

**ASB/Leadership** – This course has students actively involved in planning and executing the assemblies, student recognition, dances, fundraisers, and lunch activities at Cedar. Students will help support school culture activities to help make sure Cedar is a fun, safe, and exciting place for students to learn. *\*Application and/or interview required.*

**Beg. Art** – This course is a project-based experience in art focused on artistic concepts, techniques, elements, and skills. Students will create finished pieces in several mediums as well as learn about art processes and appreciation.

**Painting**- This class is an intro to using paints such as watercolor, tempera, and acrylic. Students will make paintings as well as sculptures. This class will be great for anyone who likes to be creative, work with their hands

**Adv. Art** – This course is a project-based experience in art focused on advanced artistic concepts, skills, and techniques. For students who have already taken beginning art or have been recommended to the course. **\*1 year experience is preferred.**

**Home Economics** – This course will introduce the following skills to students: Food and Nutrition: Students will study basic nutrition and apply the knowledge to their own eating habits. Emphasis will be placed on cooking techniques, terms, measuring ingredients, use and care of equipment, teamwork in the kitchen, and reading a recipe. Child Development: Students will learn basic safe babysitting techniques, prevention of accidents, communication, and discipline skills. Clothing: Students will learn to sew on a button, repair a buttonhole, and use basic mending techniques.

**Adv. Home Economics** - This course is for students who have already completed one year of Home Economics and would like to take the skills that they learned to a higher level. Students will explore and prepare for occupations that require skills in childcare, food and nutrition, and sewing. In Adv. Home Economics class, students will use their advanced skills to benefit others in the Cedar Middle School community. **\*1-year experience is preferred.**

**Yearbook**: Students will produce and assist with the production, sales, and distribution of the yearbook. This is an opportunity for students to work independently or in small groups to create the yearbook. **\*Current ELA grade of an A or B and Application required.**

**Speech/Debate** – This course is designed to foster debate participation in class and in competition. Students who debate in class may use any number of debate formats to facilitate research, discussion, and deliberation on important issues and events as well as topics derived from the curriculum. Students who debate in middle school sites or in a league competition use a unique debate format designed for middle school students. This course will implement critical thinking, ethics, Socratic seminars, critical reading, research, and oral debate. In addition, students in the class will be prepared for competitive debate by creating debate teams within the class. **\*Application and/or interview required.**

**Computers:** This course is designed to introduce the student to becoming more proficient with everything on their Chromebook. The student will learn how to use Google Docs, slides, sheets, calendars, sites, and all things Google. They will be introduced to basic coding and learn to become proficient in their typing skills. This course can help the student to be successful in their core classes and advance to Robotics, Spartan Tech Squad, and/or Cisco Academy in High School.

**Cultural Studies:** This course provides an opportunity for students to explore existing and emerging issues, theories, and practices found in a variety of cultures.

**Spanish 1** – This course introduces students to the basic structures of the Spanish language with an emphasis on listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The course also introduces various cultural similarities between Spanish-speaking countries and the United States, including customs, work ethics, education, and leisure time activities. Only available to 8th-grade students.

**Spanish 1B** – This course covers the second half of the traditional Spanish 1 course and is preceded by a satisfactory grade in Spanish 1A as the requisite. This allows students to be better prepared in spite of their current Spanish proficiency. Spanish 1B is a communicative beginning-level Spanish course. Students will begin to develop their Spanish proficiency through extensive interaction in the target language. **\*Must have taken Spanish 1A in 7<sup>th</sup> grade & Teacher Recommended.**

**Exploratory/eSports** – This course will enhance student skills, promote nutrition and reflection, encourage career readiness, foster character development, and continue to develop computer and technology proficiency. There will be healthy competition and collaboration through online video gaming in which players compete against one another individually or in teams to reach an objective.

**Fiction, Film, and Writing** - Films are fun to watch, but did you know you can learn from them too? In Fiction, Film, and Writing we will watch movies of different time periods and genres to learn about the world around us. We will also learn basic screenplay writing and movie-making.

**Beginning Drama-** This course will introduce students to all aspects of the theater and its history. Students will learn the basics of character development, stage movement, and voice technique to perform monologues and scenes. Students will acquire knowledge in all areas of theater production including technical theater (lighting, sound, costumes, and make-up).

**Theater Production & Film Study-** This course is designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of theater production and filmmaking aesthetics, covering various aspects such as script analysis, acting techniques, camera angles, film genres, and editing. Students in the class will focus on the development and analysis of the aesthetics and effects of theatrical choices in script work and film production; such as screenplay writing, prop building, acting choices, sound design, and mood for stage sets/lighting.

**Introduction to Stagecraft & Filmmaking-** This course offers students a comprehensive introduction to the fundamentals of stagecraft and filmmaking through hands-on practical exercises, theoretical discussions, and analysis of professional productions, musical scores, and plot settings. Students will analyze story elements through imagery, art, and music by displaying comprehensive knowledge through various visual mediums such as video, poster board, audio/sound clips, and artwork.

**Creative Writing** - Poetry, short stories, plays, screenplay, and advertising are some of the creative writing formats this course will use to develop writing process skills. Instruction, modeling, practice, group work, and coaching will help the student to establish a writer's voice.

**Environmental Science and Sustainability/Greenhouse** - This class is designed to give students a hands-on opportunity to learn about plant parts and the plant life cycle, the various ways to propagate plants, how to use tools in the greenhouse, and how to set up and operate a plant sale. They will also be learning about the importance of eating healthy and tasting different fruits and vegetables throughout the year. Be prepared for physical work and working with soil!

**AVID Peer Tutor** - AVID tutors assist the classroom teacher in organizing students into small groups, reviewing student work, and leading small group tutorials.

**Finance** - A two-semester class teaching you the importance of foundations in personal finance. In this class, you will learn the importance of giving, saving, and spending through much-needed life skills such as budgeting, credit & debt, education & careers, investing, insurance, taxes, global economics, and more! It's based around the Dave Ramsey principles which have helped millions of people create financial success. If you want to be financially successful and build wealth in your future, this class is a must!

**Office Aide** - Office Aides will be in the school office supporting the office environment and learning the working conditions. Office Aides will be expected to take the initiative to ask staff what needs to be done during each class period. Office Aides must maintain a 2.0 GPA and no Fs in all classes. If this is not met, the Office Aide period will then become a Study Hall and they will work on bringing upgrades and current work.

**Wellness TA** - Wellness TAs greet students, help stock papers, and run errands and student call slips. They also help keep the Wellness Center Organized and prepare materials for activities and events under the direction of the Wellness Advocate Teacher. Wellness TAs on occasion may help with peer tutoring or escorting a student if help is needed. Wellness TAs are mindful of student confidentiality, are respectful and kind in their interactions, and maintain As and Bs in all their classes. **\*Application and/or interview required.**

**Health and Fitness:** Students will participate in a comprehensive, sequentially planned program that is rich in content with an emphasis on motor skills, knowledge, self, and social values. Activities will include Rhythm, Exercises, Team Sports, Movement, Endurance, and Individual Sports. This class will not dress out, will primarily take place in a classroom, and will not replace the student's physical education class.