

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Electives

**BAND** (yearlong): Students will perform in a winter and spring concert and will have a weekly 15 minute lesson in addition to group band. Students will prepare a solo unit for a grade and have the optional opportunity to perform at Solo/Ensemble contest for judging.

**CHOIR** (yearlong): Students will learn to sing two and three part music in various styles and will perform in 3 mandatory concerts.

**Art** (1 semester): Students will explore drawing, design and painting.

**Painting & 3D** (1 semester): Students will explore painting, printmaking, sculpture and basket making.

**Fitness & Conditioning** (1 semester): Students will learn proper lifting and spotting forms while using strength equipment. Students will participate in cardiovascular activities to improve overall health and strength.

**PLTW (Project Lead the Way) Computer Science Essentials** (yearlong-*High School credit*): Students will learn coding fundamentals through an approachable, block-based programming language where they will create usable apps. Students will transition to programming environments that reinforce coding fundamentals by displaying block programming and text-based programming side-by-side. Students will be introduced to the Python® programming language.

**Novels** (1 semester): In this reading-focused elective, students will explore a variety of novels while building literacy skills and engaging in thoughtful discussion. Emphasis is placed on active class participation by analyzing texts, sharing ideas, and developing a deeper appreciation for literature.

**Medical Detectives** (1 semester): In Medical Detectives, students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they collect and analyze medical data to diagnose diseases. They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, measure and interpret vital signs, dissect a sheep brain, investigate disease outbreaks, and explore how a breakdown within the human body can lead to dysfunction. This course does not make the students experts, but provides them with the tools to make discoveries in the future.

**Study Hall** (1 semester)

**Agricultural Education** (1 semester): Middle School Agriculture allows students to study a variety of agricultural topics including grain crops, agriculture business, and animal science (beef, swine, and poultry).

**Music Appreciation** (1 semester): Music Appreciation is an exploration of the history of rock and roll and students will take a dive into playing different instruments.