

8th Grade Course Descriptions

Health: Health education provides opportunities for students to develop knowledge, skills, & attitudes necessary for practicing lifelong, health-enhancing behaviors. The Health I curriculum focuses on what students can do for themselves to meet the objectives of the 6 state core standards. Students will learn that they are responsible for their personal well-being, and that building a solid foundation of goal setting, decision making, communication, & resiliency skills can contribute to a variety of healthy choices for self & others that will be of value throughout their lives. *The following units will be taught throughout the semester: Health Foundations & Protective Factors of Healthy Self, Mental & Emotional Health, Safety & Disease Prevention, Substance Abuse Prevention, Nutrition, & Human Development (opt-in program with parental permission).*

Fine Art Electives

Beginning Brass: Year-long course. An introduction to brass instruments (trumpet, trombone, tuba, & french horn). The band rehearses and performs marches, classical, & popular music. There are generally 3 performances per school year. There is a \$6 per semester class fee with an optional yearly \$90 instrument rental fee.

Beginning Woodwinds: Year-long course. An introduction to woodwind instruments (flute, clarinet, oboe, & saxophone). The band rehearses & performs marches, classical, and popular music. There are generally 3 performances per school year. There is a \$6 per semester class fee with an optional yearly \$90 instrument rental fee.

***Percussion Ensemble:** Year-long course. Audition and knowledge of note reading is required for admission. Contact Dr. Taylor at kktaylor@alpinedistrict.org for audition material/info. Students will learn a variety of percussion instruments. There is a \$35 per semester class fee. Students will also need to rent a percussion kit from a local music dealer.

***Concert Band:** Year-long course for 2nd year band students. Admission requires teacher approval. There is a \$15 per semester class fee with an optional yearly \$90 instrument rental fee.

***Symphonic Band:** Year-long course for 3rd year band students; an advanced instrumental ensemble. Admission requires teacher approval. There is a \$15 per semester class fee with an optional yearly \$90 instrument rental fee.

***Jazz Band:** Year-long course; audition required. Jazz band students must also enroll in symphonic band, concert band, or percussion ensemble; students cannot take jazz band only. There is a \$15 per semester class fee with an optional yearly \$90 instrument rental fee.

Beginning Orchestra: Year-long course. This is an ensemble of beginning string players directed toward attaining basic skills in string music. Lower string instruments (cello & bass) are available for school rental along with a limited number of upper string instruments (violin & viola). No previous experience is required. There is a \$6 per semester class fee with an optional yearly \$90 instrument rental fee.

***Intermediate Orchestra:** Year-long course. Students with previous experience on string instruments, who are able to read music can sign up for this class. Teacher approval is required. There is a \$10 per semester class fee with an optional yearly \$90 instrument rental fee.

***Advanced Orchestra:** Year-long course. Students with more extensive string experience can audition for advanced orchestra. Teacher approval is required. There is a \$10 per semester class fee with an optional yearly \$90 instrument rental fee.

Concert Choir: This intermediate choir class is a year-long course for boys & girls, and a year-long commitment is required. 8th & 9th graders without any Choir experience can register for this choir. Students build upon skills learned in previous choirs, while concentrating on more difficult songs & learn more singing techniques. Students will sing in at least 4 evening concerts and will also participate in the Spring ASD Intermediate Choir Festival (all performances are graded & attendance is required). There is a \$10 per semester class fee.

Madrigals: This year-long course for 7th & 8th grade girls, and a year-long commitment is required. The focus is on singing with good tone, singing in parts, learning to read music, learning solfege, developing responsible ensemble skills, & performing as a choir. Students will sing in 4 evening concerts (all performances are graded & attendance is required). There is a \$8 per semester class fee.

***Advanced Girls Choir:** Year-long commitment required for this course. This choir class is for 8th & 9th grade girls with previous Lakeridge choir experience. This class is for students that have excelled in good choral habits & want to sing in a small group. Students will sing challenging repertoire and perform for various functions throughout the school year. Students will sing in at least 4 evening concerts & the Spring ASD Advanced Festival (all performances are graded & attendance is required). Students will have the opportunity to compete at the Music in the Parks Festival & attend Lagoon with their choir friends. There is a \$14 per semester class fee.

An asterisk () indicates a course that requires an application, audition, teacher approval, or pre-requisite course prior to enrollment.*

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Drama 1: Students will be introduced to the dramatic arts through study, which includes movement, voice, characterization, & scene work. There is a \$5 per semester class fee.

***Drama 2:** Students will further their study of the dramatic arts through studying and performance pieces from important historical movements in theatre, participation in children's theatre, including puppetry, & a study of stage combat. There is a \$5 per semester class fee.

***Drama 3:** This is a production class in which students will get hands-on acting experience & work together to produce a show for after-school audiences. Admission requires audition & teacher approval. There is a \$5 per semester class fee.

Musical Theater: This class is a production class that will rehearse and perform the evening school musical. Students will learn how to audition, act, sing, and dance in preparation for the show. There are minimal after school commitments during tech week and performances. Students also need to take another choir, drama, band, orchestra, or dance class along with this course. Exceptions must be approved by the teachers. There is a class fee of \$10.

Stage Craft: This class offers students an introduction to basic elements of stage design, including costumes, props, set, lighting, sound, & marketing. Students will have opportunities to adapt designs to various concepts.

***Stage Crew:** Students must have taken Stage Craft previously. This class offers students hands-on design experience with the shows being produced. Students will further hone their skills of design and play production as they collaborate on a design & concept. There is a \$10 per semester class fee.

3D Design: This class will explore sculptural (3D) art. This class gives students a hands-on art making experience grounded in problem solving. We use a variety of recycled and non recycled materials including: paper, cardboard, clay, and digital media to create original 3D artwork. *Sharp and hot tools are used.* There is a \$20 per semester class fee.

Drawing 1: This class is for students who want to refine their drawing skills. Students will explore different methods & techniques of drawing. Students will also use a variety of drawing materials including: pencil, pastel, and digital drawing. This class will support students in developing their own artistic style.

World Language Electives

French 1: Year-long course. Explore the language and culture of French-speaking countries while building fundamental skills in speaking, listening, reading, and writing. This class will require daily home study of French vocabulary to participate in interactive lessons, activities, and real-life scenarios. Communication in class (teacher-student and student-student) is primarily in French.

French 2: Year-long course. Students must have taken French 1 (or equivalent) & finished with a C or higher. Students deepen their global view and expand their fluency in the French language as they work through new real-life contexts. Communication in class (teacher-student & student-student) is primarily in French.

Spanish 1: Year-long course. This class will be an introductory language class and require daily home study of the Spanish vocabulary. Speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills are emphasized through studies of language and cultures from throughout the Hispanic world. No pre-requisite required.

***Spanish 2:** Year-long course. Students must have taken Spanish 1 & finished with a C or higher.

***Spanish 4 DLI Honors:** (Year-long course for Spanish/Dual Immersion students only) DLI 4 Honors is a course that allows students to build skills in cultural-linguistic competencies necessary for successful communication with native speakers. This course is taught 100% in the target language (Spanish).

This class is intended for 8th grade immersion students & native Spanish speaking students. The topics & tasks of the 7th & 8th grade years, along with careful support for students to reach language proficiency targets, lead intentionally to the Spanish AP language course, to be taken in the 9th grade year.

PE Electives

Fit-Basketball: A co-ed course focused on developing basketball skills. We will work on dribbling, ball handling, passing, shooting, teamwork, etc. There is a \$5 per semester class fee and a \$22 required uniform fee.

Fit-Soccer: This class is designed for people that love the sport of soccer. The focus of the class will be on skills, game play, and fitness. You will spend the majority of the class period being physically active! There is a \$5 per semester class fee and a \$22 required uniform fee.

PE Elective Co-Ed: This course emphasizes team sports and individual physical fitness activities. This class may be repeated as an elective. There is a \$5 per semester class fee and a \$22 required uniform fee.

***Students may only enroll in one
PE elective course per school year!***

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8th Grade Course Descriptions

General Electives

Debate: Debate is an elective class for 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students. We will focus on the Rhetorical appeals (Ethos, Pathos, Logos) becoming comfortable with speaking in public & mixing rhetoric & public speaking to create arguments for in-class debates. The first term will focus on rhetoric & developing comfort & aptitude for speaking, while the second term will focus mainly on preparing for & having debates.

Film Literature: Students explore the development of the motion picture art form from the silent era to modern films. Essays, reports, & critical analysis of films are included.

Mythology: In this elective course, you will explore various myths from around the world & focus heavily on Greek mythology. The course helps students develop reading and writing skills, & especially emphasizes collaboration among students.

***Yearbook:** In this year-long course, students will gain skills in one or more of the following areas: page design, advanced publishing techniques, copywriting, editing, & photography while producing a creative, innovative yearbook, which records school memories & events. There is an emphasis on journalism skills. Participants gain real world skills in time management, marketing, teamwork, & design principles.

***Peer Tutor:** Peer tutoring is a fun class where you get the opportunity to help students with disabilities. Peer tutors assist life skills students in the classroom or accompany a student to another class in the school. Peer tutors will develop positive attitudes & relationships with students with disabilities. Peer tutors must be excellent examples of appropriate behavior. Good attendance is important for peer tutors. Peer tutor expectations include focusing on your student, encouraging learning & participation, being a positive role model, & following directions. Applications for this course can be found in the Counseling Office.

***Peer Tutor - PE:** This is an elective course for students of all ability levels that promotes an inclusive physical education experience. This class incorporates a variety of physical education course content including: team sports, individual sports, fitness, recreation/lifetime activities, cooperative games, & much more! As a peer tutor you will help support students with disabilities in their PE class. All students are expected to fully participate in all physical activities; however, you will not be required to dress in PE clothes but will be asked to dress appropriately for physical activity, including athletic attire and closed-toe shoes. Applications for this course can be found in the Counseling Office.

Social Dance: This course introduces students to the fundamentals of social dance through a variety of styles such as merengue, cha-cha, country two-step, bachata, and other popular partner dances. Students will learn basic steps, rhythm, timing, and partner connection while building confidence, coordination, and social awareness. This is a performance class.

JH Dance 1A: This class is a great starting point for students who are new to dance or want to build a strong foundation. Students will learn basic movement skills, rhythm, coordination, and dance technique through a variety of styles such as jazz, hip hop, and contemporary. No prior dance experience is required. Class focuses on confidence, musicality, teamwork, and having fun while learning how to move with control and expression. Students will also explore how different dance styles connect and learn the basics of performance in a supportive and inclusive environment. This is a performance class. There is a \$15 per semester class fee.

***JH Dance 1B:** This class is designed for students who have completed JH Dance 1A or have prior dance experience and are ready to continue building their skills. Students will develop stronger technique, coordination, musicality, and movement quality through a variety of styles such as jazz, hip hop, and contemporary. Class focuses on performance skills, confidence, and versatility while encouraging dancers to refine control, transitions, and expression. Students will also have opportunities to create and explore their own choreography, while continuing to learn how different dance styles connect in a supportive and inclusive environment that encourages growth, creativity, and collaboration. This is a performance class. There is a \$15 per semester class fee.

CTE Electives

Exploring Tech: Exploring technology is an introductory, hands-on, class that introduces students to skills used in the technical, architecture and construction, transportation, power and energy, and manufacturing. The curriculum is designed around hands-on activities that increase the development of problem-solving skills. There is a \$10 per semester class fee.

Game Design: This course is designed to provide students with knowledge and project-based experience of fundamental gaming development concepts relating to STEM. Concepts will include game design, scripting, creation of digital assets, graphic resources, animations, understanding hardware, problem solving, critical thinking, collaboration, and project management.

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Family & Consumer Sciences A (Exploring Clothing): Explore fun and exciting careers in areas of clothing construction, fashion, free enterprise, and interior design. This is a creative CTE class, where you learn about design and industry sewing techniques. There is a \$10 per semester class fee.

Family & Consumer Sciences B: Students will develop essential skills in the various career pathways related to Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS). Students will explore and cultivate skills in food and nutrition sciences, childcare, consumerism, entrepreneurship, family relationships, personal responsibility, and career and job-related tasks. There is a \$10 per semester class fee.