

Wilson C. Riles Middle School

Elective Guide

2022-2023



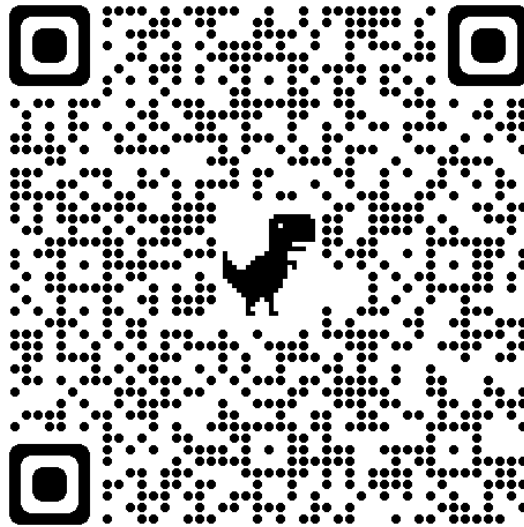
“Developing our students’ academic, emotional and social skills for success today and in the future.”

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ELECTIVE FORM LINK:

<https://forms.gle/dy8odJACUF9Lzi6u7>



Please read all the course descriptions first!

Then go to the electronic form to submit your elective choice form.
You will be required to select your top 6 but can submit up to 10 choices.

Please email Mrs. Kent (akent@centerusd.org) if you have any questions!

Arts, Media, & Entertainment

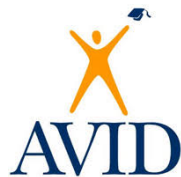
Broadcasting Studio: Riles TV Broadcasting is open to 7th and 8th grade students. Students in broadcasting will be responsible for the daily Riles TV News Show as well as some videotaping/photographing of school events such as athletic events, plays, and dances. Because students will be required to work in teams, meet deadlines, and work carefully with expensive equipment, they must be dedicated, responsible, and motivated.

Introduction to Broadcasting: Beginning Broadcasting is a course that will enable the students to research and study the cultural context of video as well as the history of technology and the impact of television on society. This course is designed to provide students the opportunity to utilize multimedia broadcasting to express themselves by communicating through the visual arts. Students will study/research film history, videography, studio production, video editing, and postproduction. In addition, students will learn 3D graphics and animation techniques. Emphasis will be placed on the following practices: lecture, notes, research, reading, shooting and editing quality pictures, including good content in programs, and taking responsibility for the programs that are produced. Linear and nonlinear editing will be introduced.

History of Film: Do you like watching movies? Then you should sign up for this class! An analysis of the evolution of movies, from early photography to motion pictures. In this class you will watch films, and complete several projects to analyze the various aspects of films. You will also participate in reading and writing activities as well as hands-on projects and public speaking. We will study many genres of age-appropriate films, including anime, animation, silent films, comedies, musicals, and early TV.

Advancement via Individual Determination (AVID)

What is AVID? AVID is a program for students that began in California over 40 years ago. AVID now exists in 44 states and 17 countries. This program is designed to support students for success in a college-preparatory path, and help prepare students in gaining career readiness and/or admittance to a four-year college or university. AVID is an academic, regularly scheduled elective class based on writing as a tool of learning, inquiry method, organization, critical reading and collaboration.



AVID 7 & AVID 8: A program for “middle to upper middle” academic students. AVID provides support with class lessons on organization and college readiness as well as tutorials for assistance with core academic classes. Students participate in team building activities and field trips. This is an academic elective which will require reading and writing with an emphasis on preparing all students to have multiple options in high school and beyond. A completed application is required in order to be enrolled in this course. Find the application at: <https://bit.ly/wcraavid23>

Engineering & Design



Project Lead the Way 8 (Design & Modeling/Automation & Robotics):

**** Available for 8th grade students only.****

Project Lead The Way provides engineering, biomedical, and/or computer science curriculum for middle school students that challenges, inspires, and offers variety and flexibility. Students get rigorous and relevant experiences through activity-, project-, and problem-based learning. They use industry-leading technology to solve problems while gaining skills in communication, collaboration, critical-thinking, and creativity. Students will use tools such as the engineering design process, an engineering notebook, 3D modeling software, and VEX Robotics® to invent and innovate. Learn how creative thinking and problem solving can change your world!

Project Lead the Way 7 (Energy & The Environment/Medical Detectives):

**** Available for 7th grade students only.****

Students are challenged to think big and toward the future as they explore sustainable solutions to our energy needs and investigate the impact of energy on our lives and the world. They design and model alternative energy sources and evaluate options for reducing energy consumption.

Students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they collect and analyze medical data to diagnose disease. They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, measure and interpret vital signs, examine nervous system structure and function, and investigate disease outbreaks.

Performing Arts

***All performing art classes are full-year electives, meaning that a student who signs up for one of these classes is making a commitment for the entire school year.**

**** 7th graders can be eligible for the advanced courses, if you have previous experience. Contact Mr. Johnson (mjohnson@centerusd.org) for more information and placement clarifications. ****

Beginning Band: Beginning instruction with emphasis on musicianship and performance practice. You will learn how to properly care for, assemble, and perform on a band instrument. The course also includes music fundamentals, theory, songs, performance, listening, composing, improvising, analyzing, and learning how to read standard music notation. The band will perform several times during the year, both at the school and in the community.

Concert Band:** Intermediate instruction with emphasis on musicianship and performance practice. The course also includes music fundamentals, theory, songs, performance, listening, composing, improvising, analyzing, and learning how to read standard music notation. Emphasis on performance manifests in various performance opportunities including field trips and concerts.

Beginning Strings: Beginning instruction with emphasis on musicianship and performance practice. You will learn how to properly care for, assemble, and perform on an orchestral string instrument. The course also includes music fundamentals, theory, songs, performance, listening, composing, improvising, analyzing, and learning how to read standard music notation. The orchestra will perform several times during the year, both at school and in the community.

Strings Orchestra:** Intermediate instruction with emphasis on musicianship and performance practice. The course also includes music fundamentals, theory, songs, performance, listening, composing, improvising, analyzing, and learning how to read standard music notation. Emphasis on performance manifests in various performance opportunities including field trips and concerts.

Choir: Beginning and intermediate instruction for vocal music. Proper sound production, breathing, diction, and harmonizing will be taught. The course also includes music fundamentals, theory, songs, performance, listening, composing, improvising, analyzing, and learning how to read standard music notation. Emphasis on performance manifests in various performance opportunities including field trips and concerts. The choir will perform several times during the year, both at the school and in the community.

Creative Drama: This course is intended for students who are curious about theatre arts, but may not feel comfortable performing for the public. We will be learning about acting techniques and different forms of drama, in addition to studying the various backstage jobs that help make a successful production. The students will work on a variety of assignments and projects in addition to providing support for the plays put on by the Performance Drama class.

Performance Drama: This course is intended for students who have a desire to learn about acting and perform for their classmates as well as the public. The primary focus will be on various acting techniques and teachers, types of theatrical performances, and putting on performances. Each year we will put on a fall performance and a spring performance. These performances will make up a large portion of the student's grade in the class. In addition to our plays, students will work on assorted projects and assignments.

Visual Arts

Art: An introductory course. Students will demonstrate an understanding of basic elements, principles and concepts of art as well as learn an appreciation for art through reading about, writing about, and making art. Each unit is centered on the elements and principles of design as well as the California State Content Standards

Advanced Art: ****Open only to only 8th graders who have taken Art in the 2021-2022 school year.**** Students will build on their knowledge of the basic elements, principles, and concepts of art as well as analyze their own and others artwork for presentation. Advanced Art is a higher level course that prepares students to take classes beyond middle school. Each unit is centered on the Elements of Art & Principles of Design as well as the California State Content Standards

Ceramics: In this introductory ceramics course, students will be exposed to basic handbuilding procedures as well as wheel-thrown techniques. A variety of both utilitarian and non-utilitarian projects will be constructed. Students will also engage in fundamental glazing and firing techniques. All projects will include exposure to various tools, techniques and vocabulary.

Advanced Ceramics: ****Open only to only 8th graders who have taken Art in the 2021-2022 school year.****

This class builds on the previous class but now has students learning more advanced techniques of hand building. They will learn how to further manipulate clay to create more intricate art pieces. They will continue to learn the history of art and how art is a form of language that is often used to send a message to the viewer.

Beginning Computer Science: An introductory computer science course that empowers students to create authentic projects and engage with computer science as a medium for creativity, communication, problem solving, and fun. Students will learn about developing websites, creating animations, and graphic and digital art design, in addition to building their own games or apps. They will expand their knowledge of other computer applications and programs they might encounter in both the school and the workplace by creating documents, spreadsheets, and digital presentations, all while strengthening their keyboarding and citizenship skills.

Advanced Computer Science: ****Open only to only 8th graders who have taken Computer**

Science in the 2021-2022 school year.** Returning students to this course will delve deeper into real coding languages and coding concepts as they continue to create authentic projects and engage with computer science as a medium for creativity, communication, problem solving, and fun. They will learn about the role of coding in robotics and other career fields in computer science and explore animation principles and techniques. Finally, they will review and gain new skills in areas of digital art, graphic design, and computer applications for school and the workplace. They also will be introduced to physical computing (using coding to manipulate objects and control outputs such as lights, displays, and motors).

Additional Content Area Electives

Civic Literacy: Civic Literacy allows students to explore our multicultural world through literature. The class is for students to advance their English Language Arts, academic, and real world skills. Our class will inspire students to be a positive influence in their own communities as informed, engaged, and solution oriented citizens. Our studies will focus on themes of social justice, social responsibility, and social change. Students will develop respect and a better understanding of various cultures that reflect themselves and their community. This course is designed to help students develop confidence, empathy, and a deeper understanding of their own identity. In addition to studying literature we will be developing critical thinking skills, creating advocacy campaigns, practicing methods of civic engagement, understanding persuasive techniques, learning about change makers and social movements, exploring the aspects and process of identity formation, collaborating, and engaging in academic discussions.

Creative Writing: This course uses a fresh approach to writing using critical thinking skills and the inquiry process. It will help the student become a better thinker, problem solver, speaker, team player, planner, and researcher. Critical and creative thinking, problem solving, communication, and collaboration skills are used in developing unique pieces of writing for creative expression.

Psychology: This class is an introductory course to the field of psychology. The course will examine such topics as brain structure anatomy and corresponding purposes, CTE and traumatic brain injuries, child development, learning and memory functions, and much more. Throughout the course, students will be empowered to learn more about their own brain and thought processes. We will also examine culturally relevant information such as the influence of social media on the psyche, how stress affects bodies and brains, and much more. This is an academic elective and students will participate in a variety of academic activities like article annotations, writing responses, independent research, and more. We will also participate in some hands-on and experiment based activities.

Travel the World: Students will explore the world through virtual field trips, games, discussion, videos and more. We will start with sites in the United States such as our National Parks. We will then move to the other continents of the world. We will learn of world cultures and create our own travel adventures for the future. We would like to have guest speakers share their travel adventures and have students share about their own experiences. We will be using three of the five themes of geography: location, place, and region to learn about our world. "Travel helps you understand and appreciate different cultures. It changes people. It broadens perspectives and teaches new ways to measure quality of life." Rick Steves

Physical Education Electives

**** taken in addition to regular PE course ****

Team Sports: This course will consist of several popular team sports. The intent of the class is to be an extension of Physical Education. We are looking for a student that wants to participate in several team sports. We are looking for students that want to be on a team and compete at a higher level than our traditional Physical Education classes. Some sports that we will offer are Flag Football, Soccer, Basketball, Hockey, and Volleyball.

Leadership and Student Engagement

Leadership: In Leadership students will learn how to be better leaders. Lessons are focused on building the skills of honesty, selflessness, kindness, respect, forgiveness, commitment, and humility. Character Dares are used to put the leadership skills taught into action. Using a wide variety of teaching methods (games, activities, videos, group interaction, etc.), students will learn all the ins and outs of being a better leader. Students will run rallies, publicize events, run the student store, run intramurals, etc. You must fill out a quick application to be eligible for this course. Your teacher or teachers will be contacted for a recommendation. **** To be eligible, you must fill out this form**

[Leadership Application Form](#) **

W.E.B.: ****For 8th graders only.**** Wouldn't it be nice to meet some people from your classes before school starts? Or to get a tour of your school so you don't feel so lost on the first day? How about seeing some familiar faces on the first day of school? If you answered yes to any of those questions, then you need to be a WEB Leader! WEB stands for *WHERE EVERYBODY BELONGS* and it is our job to help the incoming 7th graders learn how to be Huskies. WEB Leaders will host an Orientation for the new 7th graders as well as spend the school year teaching them how to survive middle school. ****There is a time commitment the week before school begins. If interested, please fill out the application [WEB Leader Application](#)**

Student Aides and Peer Support

Attendance Aide: Students will be expected to answer phones, greet the public, distribute passes and perform other clerical tasks as assigned by the office for which they are aiding. A minimum GPA of 3.0 and no N's or U's on the report card are required for this elective.

Office Aide: Students will be expected to answer phones, greet the public, distribute passes and perform other clerical tasks as assigned by the office for which they are aiding. A minimum GPA of 3.0 and no N's or U's on the report card are required for this elective.

Teacher's Aide: Students will be expected to run errands, grade papers, organize materials and perform other clerical tasks as assigned by the teacher for which they are aiding. A minimum GPA of 3.0 and no N's or U's on the report card, and following the Husky Code with minimal supervision are required for this elective.

Library Aide: Students will be expected to assist with the following: repair and re-shelving of books (alphabetical order) and other library materials, assist students with their library needs, rotate seasonal and monthly displays around the library, and frequent research projects. Students are expected to follow the Husky Code with minimal supervision. A minimum GPA of 3.0 and no N's or U's on the report card are required for this elective.

P.E. Aide: Students will be expected to assist with setting up and clean up of P.E. activities, assist in the loan garage, and follow the Husky Code with minimal supervision. A minimum GPA of 3.0 and no N's or U's on the report card are required for this elective.

AVID Tutor: This class provides high-achieving students with the opportunity to work and interact with 7th and other 8th grade students who need additional help with core concepts.

Academic Intervention Electives

All students meeting district criteria will be screened and placed in intervention classes as appropriate.

Academic Lab A: The Academic Lab A elective will work to improve literacy levels with a focus on improving fluency and decoding. Students will also receive additional support for success in core classes.

**** This course is delivered daily and will count as two elective periods. ****

Academic Lab B: All students meeting district criteria will be screened and placed in intervention classes as appropriate. The Academic Lab B elective will provide additional instruction on concepts to support learning in the core math class.

Academic Lab C: All students meeting district criteria will be screened and placed in intervention classes as appropriate. The Academic Lab C elective will support students' success in all core classes.