

7th Grade Elective Descriptions

Semester-Long Classes

Arts Foundations I

This is the required Middle School Visual Arts Core course. It is designed to provide an overview of Visual Arts while studying a broad variety of art tools and materials. With an emphasis on studio production, this course is designed to develop high level thinking, art-related technology skills, art criticism, art history, and aesthetics. Student choice and individual ability will be considered. Projects include drawing, painting, printing, and ceramics.

Debate

Rerequisite: Instructor approval/signature

Looking to improve your argumentation skills? Debate will help you learn how to think and communicate your thoughts clearly. Being able to see and develop many different sides of an argument is a great life skill. Taking this class will help you with class presentations, research skills, written work, and understanding alternative perspectives. Students who take part in debate are better communicators, more self-confident, and better at working in teams. You will learn different debate formats. Through debate, you will become more articulate, open-minded, and comfortable expressing opinions on current issues. This course is geared toward high ability students and GATE students.

ACS Exploration

ACS (Family And Consumer Science) Exploration provides students the opportunity to learn essential life skills. Students will develop skills in food and nutrition, childcare safety, clothing construction and style, consumerism, family relationships, personal responsibility, and career-related skills and tasks.

Introduction to Digital Design

Students will focus on exploring what it means to be living in the digital world and learn how to use a variety of tools and skills to create digital products and solutions. Areas of emphasis: Explore authentic person, school and community challenges. Learn and apply the design thinking process to understand challenges and develop innovative solutions. Learn to apply digital tools and skills to create digital solutions. Develop key 21st Century skills. Reflect on passions, purpose and career opportunities.

Peer Tutoring-Special Education

This is a service course in which students work with other students who have moderate to severe disabilities in classroom settings. Training with the Special Education Department staff takes place concurrently. Strict confidentiality is required from all students in this program. Peer tutors are role models, so they must be trustworthy and will be held to high standards of conduct. Grades are based on attendance, quarterly evaluations, and student-directed learning projects.

Peer Tutoring-Instructional Support

Peer Tutoring is a semester long elective. You will work with a group of 3-4 with 6th or 7th grade students in either Mrs. Ray's or Ms. McWilliams' classroom. We are interested in students who: - are academically strong in all subjects, particularly Math, have good communication skills, a desire to help others, and want to obtain mastery in core subjects by teaching to others.

Technology I

Studying a variety of energy sources and designing and building related projects such as Co2 cars, bottle rockets, and mousetrap vehicles.

Year-Long Classes

Art Foundations I / Color Theory

This course is a combination of Art Foundations I and Color Theory. Color, along with other art elements learned in Art Foundations I, will be further explored. A wide variety of materials will be used such as acrylic paints on canvas, glass, watercolor, colored pencils, pastels, and digital imaging. Impressionist artists and their works will be studied as well. Student choice and individual ability will be considered.

Concert Band (Band II)

Rerequisite: Band I or consent of instructor

This group is an intermediate level class with combined woodwind, brass, and percussion students. The students will meet every other day and are expected to practice on a regular basis (20 minutes per day minimum). They will use the *Standard of Excellence Book 2* for their classroom materials, and they will be given sheet music and other necessary performance aids throughout the year. The students will perform in a minimum of three concerts and one festival throughout the school year.

Choir II

This course provides opportunities for students to develop their musical potential and aesthetic understanding through singing in a choral ensemble. Study includes the care and cultivation of a beautiful tone, aesthetic awareness, ability to read music, the building of technical skills, team spirit, and responsible rehearsal habits. Students will have opportunities to experience the spontaneity of improvisation and the creative process of composition. Students will strengthen listening skills and their ability to analyze and evaluate music and music performances. Attention will also be given to relating their music experiences to personal development through singing and performing.

French I

Students will learn the basic elements of French by speaking, writing, reading and listening, as well as learn about French culture, communities and connections.

Latinos in Action (LIA)

This is a leadership/service class. After being trained as literacy tutors, the students work as para-educators at one of the elementary schools. Each student is assigned a cooperating LIA student to assist the children in the elementary classroom by building literacy and mathematical skills. The students also examine ethnic diversity issues and self-advocacy and model school or community functions. Students are required to complete a portfolio for college admissions, attend a leadership conference, and must complete 50 additional hours of service. To stay eligible for LIA, students must maintain an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher throughout the school year, must be willing to be positive role models within the school community, and must be willing to serve the community.

Leadership I

The role of a Leadership student is to socially support and represent our student body. The responsibilities include working with fellow students to promote respect, responsibility, atmosphere and pride in our school as well as representing our student body to guests at times. To stay eligible for Leadership, students must maintain an overall GPA of 3.0 throughout the school year, must be willing to be positive role models within the school and community, and must be willing to serve the community.

Orchestra II

Rerequisite: Orchestra I or consent of instructor

Students will learn the technique required to play their instrument alone and with a group. The orchestra will perform fun and exciting music about once a quarter.

Percussion Lab

Rerequisite: Band I, and approval from instructor. (If you took Band I and played percussion, you may sign up for this class.)