

EIGHTH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Semester Long Electives

Art 8 - #05508 – One Semester

Creativity is an important part of this course, and originality and self-expression are emphasized. Drawing, as well as creating two-dimensional and three-dimensional artworks that reflect knowledge of color, form and shape, are the basis of the projects for this course. Students critique their own work and the artwork of others.

Choir 8 - #05118 – One Semester OR Full Year

This class is open to all eighth grade students and is designed to develop vocal skills needed for group choral singing and performance. Students study proper vocal tone production, rhythmic accuracy and melodic and rhythmic precision. A variety of choral literature is studied and performed, along with studies of music theory. Students participate in a variety of concerts.

Foods and Nutrition - #08008 – One Semester

In this course, students learn about food safety, kitchen safety, nutrition, food preparation techniques, etiquette and careers in the field of food science. Students investigate causes of food borne illnesses and review safety practices. The Food Guide Pyramid is used as a foundation for the study of nutrients and nutritious food choices. Students learn and practice food preparation techniques. The importance of social skills and modern etiquette is emphasized. Students are introduced to careers related to the foods and nutrition industry.

Introduction to Theater - #01509– One Semester

This class introduces students to the skills and techniques used by actors. Beginning with charades, students explore how meaning is conveyed through both oral and body language. Students learn how to speak with clarity and proper enunciation. Students learn and practice voice projection and how to breathe more effectively through the diaphragm. Students explore how voice and intonation convey meaning by reading poems aloud, participating in storytelling and creating simulations that promote characterization and mood. Students practice memorization techniques by memorizing short skits and presenting them to the class. The semester culminates with students presenting a one-act play.

Multimedia - #08808 – One Semester

Students will identify various media formats and the importance of targeting an audience and delivering an intended message. Proper rules of online etiquette, ethics, and copyright law will be embedded into the curriculum. Students will utilize applications such as Google Apps for Education and the Microsoft Office Suite to work collaboratively to design and create a variety of multimedia presentations based on research topics of choice. Students will broaden their research strategies and skills while acquiring video, audio and photography editing skills to enhance presentations. Students will be exposed to current presentation formats as they become available. Presentation formats may include slides, video, websites, podcasts or blogs with the option to utilize technology resources such as stop motion animation, interactive video and audio, and green screen technology in addition to the creation of printed materials.

Physical Education 8 - #03008 – One Semester

One third of the course is devoted to health-related fitness activities. Students are assessed on strength, flexibility and endurance. Students set fitness goals and monitor their progress throughout the semester. Students participate in selected activities for net/wall games, such as tennis and volleyball; target sports, such as archery and bowling; and invasion sports, such as soccer and basketball. Students develop skills and the attitude needed to live a physically active life. Students learn and apply the skills, strategies and rules for different group and individual sports that promote physical health. Students realize the importance of improving their flexibility, strength and endurance and how improvement in these areas improves performance in any sport.

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STEM 8 - #08408 – One Semester

This STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) course exposes students to the fundamentals of manufacturing and production systems, energy and power systems and mechanical systems through hands-on activities, multi-media presentations, readings, and discussion. Using design processes, students design, lay out, construct and test solutions for given case studies such as constructing catapults, designing a hydraulic and pneumatic robot as well as other student created/driven projects in order to build a deeper understanding of how technological systems apply to their everyday lives.

Full Year Electives

Band 8 - #05008 – Full Year Only

This course applies what has been learned previously to produce appropriate characteristic tone in all registers with an effective embouchure. When appropriate, students use vibrato. Students perform using proper phrasing, dynamics, and style of articulation. Students listen to and adjust pitch automatically. Students complete a compositional activity with specified guidelines. Using a variety of genre, students perform, listen, describe, and read music. Students learn and use accurate vocabulary to critique their own performance and the performances of others. Students are evaluated on performances that take place during class, after school, and at MSBOA Band Festival.

Choir 8 - #05108 – One Semester OR Full Year

This class is open to all eighth grade students and is designed to develop vocal skills needed for group choral singing and performance. Students study proper vocal tone production, rhythmic accuracy and melodic and rhythmic precision. A variety of choral literature is studied and performed, along with studies of music theory. Students participate in a variety of concerts.

Orchestra 8 (String Instruments) - #05228 – Full Year Only

Eighth Grade Orchestra is an instrumental music class that builds from skills learned in Seventh Grade Orchestra. Seventh Grade Orchestra (or equivalent) is a pre-requisite for this course. While individual skills are still developed, ensemble skills are a focus of this course. Music skills, including tone production, posture, bow hold, bowing, note and rhythm reading, musical terms, intonation, and the performer's role in an ensemble are further developed. Students will learn shifting techniques to perform in new positions. Students will play a varied repertoire of music. There are several evening or weekend performances throughout the year. All performances are required and graded. Special concert attire may be required.

World Language Level 1 (French #02314, German #02414, Spanish, #02814, Chinese #02614) – Full Year Only

Students learn to communicate in a variety of situations, such as: listening, conversing, reading, writing, viewing and presenting. Students use language to gain understanding of people and cultures.

(Students successfully completing a Level 1 World Language course receive one credit towards the high school World Language graduation requirement. Grades earned in Level 1 World Language courses will appear on the student's high school transcript. This high school class is a full year commitment and cannot be dropped once started.)

World Language Level 2 (French #02324, German #02424, Spanish, #02824, Chinese #02624) – Full Year Only

PREREQUISITE: Level 1

The Level 2 courses build upon the skills acquired in the Level 1 courses. Students learn to communicate in a variety of situations through listening, reading, writing, conversing, viewing and presenting with increasing accuracy and complexity. Students use language to gain understanding of people and cultures.

(Students successfully completing a Level 2 World Language course receive one credit towards the high school World Language graduation requirement. Grades earned in Level 2 World Language courses will appear on the student's high school transcript. This high school class is a full year commitment and cannot be dropped once started.)