

8th Grade Elective Classes

As a part of the academic program, elective classes provide an education in and exposure to the visual and performing arts, the work place, and the trades. These courses strive to clarify the relationship of the arts and trades to other academic disciplines and to stress their importance as a humanizing force in both the past and the present. Elective classes explore the practical and theoretical aspects of various disciplines and help eighth grade students to realize their own unique interests and potential. There are no prerequisite classes so students are encouraged to explore a variety of topics of interest to them.

Art

In this twelve-week class, students learn about two- and three-dimensional art through discussions of many examples of historical and contemporary artists and their work. Through hands-on projects, students use various painting and drawing media and acquire the skills necessary to create works of their own. Professional application of artistic techniques into graphic art is learned.

Art II

This is a twelve-week, advanced class designed for students who have an interest in art and wish to further their learning about two- and three-dimensional art. This is a class for students who enjoy art and want to enhance their art skills with a community of similarly interested artists. Studies focus on enhanced drawing and painting skills using various media. Hands-on projects emphasize sculptural elements of space, form, representation, and the inclusion of emotional response; projects may include sculpture, wood design, ceramics, photography, or metalsmithing and the process of creating jewelry. Proportion, spatial representation, design, and composition are emphasized.

Artistic/Technical Productions

In this twelve-week class, students will hone their public speaking and performance skills along with gaining an understanding of all aspects of digital filmmaking and iMovie technology. Storyboard and script writing will accompany movie, documentary, and television commercial projects. Students learn to produce, direct, film, edit, market, and present their own digital video projects. This is an interactive class and will give students a more in-depth look behind the scenes of acting and digital film-making with iMovie.

Band

This year-long class meets five days a week and is designed to develop skills in instrumental playing, as well as increase musical understanding through performance. The main emphasis at this level is performance. Students enrolling in this class should have three years of previous instruction in a school setting or private lessons.

Choir

Choir is a performance group, open to all students, devoted to the study and performance of music from a wide spectrum of styles. The chorus is a yearlong class and meets five days a week. Students enrolling in this class should have previous choral experience.

Family & Consumer Science

Healthy eating and nutrition are taught in this 12-week class with a hands-on emphasis. Students learn basic cooking skills and how to make healthy food choices by preparing and eating healthy recipes. Managing money, making financial decisions, and career exploration are also taught. Class utilizes sewing machines to construct a project.

Information Skills

Info Skills class is designed to provide students with further skills in computer literacy. Students will develop their ability to utilize information for critical thinking, problem solving, and decision making in order to function efficiently in our society. Students should further their keyboarding, word-processing, research and electronic presentation skills.

Multi Media

In this twelve-week class, students will explore a variety of artistic mediums, including painting, pastel, printmaking, graphic design and digital video. Students are required to complete four projects. Two Graphic Design (i.e. Skateboard Art, Poster Art) are required by all students. The two remaining assignments are taught as independent projects and are chosen by the students with teacher guidance. This is an interactive class and self-directed. Students will learn to set their own pace in order to complete their work to the best of their abilities.

Orchestra

This year-long class meets five days a week and is designed to develop skills in instrumental playing, as well as increase musical understanding through performance. The main emphasis at this level is performance. Students enrolling in this class should have three years of previous instruction in a school setting or private lessons.

Reading/Writing Challenge

This twelve-week course is designed to promote an appreciation of literature and increase critical reading and writing skills. Class time will be divided between whole-class discussion of short stories and poetry, independent reading and analysis of literature, and self-selected literary circle groups. Students will work toward utilizing more sophisticated descriptive language through figurative language, varied sentence structures, and developing their own voice as writers, and strive for competence in critical revision of their own writing, as well as that of other students. The course will also provide students with various strategies to help them read nonfiction materials.

Tech Ed Challenge- Automation and Robotics

This course involves the history, application and potential for technology. Students will learn through cross-curriculum, multi-cultural instruction. Students trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems.

Tech Ed Challenge- Design and Modeling

This course involves the history, application and potential for technology. Students will learn through cross-curriculum, multi-cultural instruction. Students will be involved with various projects that demonstrate principles of technology, apply the design process to solve problems, and understand the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives.

World Language

Eighth grade Spanish, French and German yearlong courses are equivalent to the Level I first-year courses at the high school. Students will study vocabulary and grammar and develop conversational skills enabling them to interact and communicate with native speakers in everyday cultural situations. Students who attain a grade of Proficient can continue with the second level at the high school. Students who do not earn a grade of Proficient can repeat the first-year course in high school. Previous experience in a language is not a prerequisite, but is highly recommended. Only students who have started their language study in eighth grade can qualify to take the fifth-year AP courses when they are seniors.

World Music

This is an exciting twelve-week class open to all students, based on the drumming circles of the Native American Indian tribes, African tribes, and Latin American cultures. Students learn music reading, rhythm, improvisation, listening, and ensemble teamwork.