

Course Descriptions for 8th Grade Electives

Spanish 1B and French 1B

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Spanish 1A or French 1A in 7th grade

These high school level courses continue with the basic programs in Spanish and French providing introductory communication skills of listening, speaking, reading, writing, viewing, and showing. Students will compare cultures and languages, as well as make cultural community connections. Oral presentations, projects, skits, CDs, videos, and songs are used to reinforce language skills.

Note: *In order to receive one high school credit, a student must successfully complete both 7th and 8th grade years of the same foreign language.*

Band: Concert/Symphonic 7/8

Prerequisite: Successful completion of a beginning band class and/or audition or evaluation by teacher

Students continue with music fundamentals and will also participate in weekly technique classes scheduled before and after school. Students will also participate in a variety of concerts including UIL band contests, solo and ensemble contests, district and region band auditions, pep rallies, football games, as well as a trip/competition in the spring.

Band: Honors 7/8

Prerequisite: Successful completion of a beginning band class and/or audition or evaluation by teacher

This course is for advanced 7th and 8th grade band musicians. Students continue to develop musical fundamentals and will participate in weekly technique classes scheduled before and after school. Students perform at concerts, solo-ensemble contests, district and region band auditions, pep rallies, football games, as well as a trip/competition in the spring.

Girls Choir 7/8

Prerequisite: None

Choir has non-varsity treble ensembles which are open to ALL 7th/8th grade girls. A strong desire to sing and a positive attitude are the only requirements. The Bel Canto, Camerata and Cantilena choirs concentrate on developing singing techniques and the musical literacy of its members.

Girls Varsity Choir 7/8

Prerequisite: Audition or teacher approval

Chorale is the Varsity Girls Choir. It is a treble choir of 7th and 8th grade students. High expectations of commitment, responsibility and dedication toward superior concert performances will be the focus of the group. Attendance is required for all rehearsals and performances. **A fee to purchase attire may be required.**

Boys Choir 7/8

Prerequisite: None

This choir is open to ALL male voices in the 7th and 8th grades. A strong desire to sing and a positive attitude are the only requirements. This choir will focus on sight-reading skills and vocal techniques.

Orchestra: Intermediate 7/8

Prerequisite: Successful completion of a beginning orchestra class and/or audition

This course extends knowledge and skills in basic musicianship. It also encourages students to continue to further develop basic ear training/listening skills, individual/ensemble playing skills, tone production, and music reading. Students participate in a variety of concerts, and may also participate in UIL orchestra concerts, solo and ensemble contests, region orchestra auditions, and community programs.

Orchestra: Advanced 7/8

Prerequisite: Successful completion of a beginning orchestra class and/or audition

This course is for advanced 7th and 8th grade string musicians. Students continue to develop ear training/listening skills, music reading, individual/ensemble playing skills, and musicianship. Students participate in concerts, UIL orchestra contests, solo and ensemble contests, region orchestra auditions, and community programs.

Theater Arts 7/8

Prerequisite: None

Students learn basic acting skills, including pantomime, improvisation, storytelling, reader's theater, choral reading and scene presentation. Students participate in public performances and study the elements of theater history and technical theater.

Advanced Theater Arts 8

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Theater Arts 7/8 and teacher approval by audition or evaluation.

This is an advanced class that builds on skills learned in Theater Arts 7/8.

Studio Art 7/8

Prerequisite: None

This course is an introduction to the basic principles of design, drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics and textiles. The program also includes art history and art appreciation. The students work with a variety of media. **Fee is required for supplies.**

Advanced Art 8

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Art 7/8 and/or portfolio review and teacher approval.

Advanced students exhibit artistic skill, motivation and self-discipline. They also create art in a variety of media such as **advanced drawing, painting, 3-D sculpture, printmaking, scratch board, batik, large ceramic pieces, and wall murals.** **Note: Fee is required for supplies.**

Gateway to Technology B

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Gateway to Technology A.

Gateway to Technology uses a hands-on approach to show how technology is used in engineering to solve everyday problems. This math, science, and technology integrated program relates technology to students' daily lives, while helping them develop skills that will enable them to better prepare for a rigorous high school curriculum. **A fee of up to \$15 per semester may be charged.**

Tech Ed I

This course uses a hands-on, activity-based overview course designed to increase the student's understanding of the development and use of technology. Group and individual tasks, problem solving, critical thinking and interdisciplinary activities will be explored. The areas of technology to be explored are communication, computer applications, construction, manufacturing, energy, power, transportation and bio-related technologies. **A fee up to \$15 per semester may be charged. This course will not result in a high school credit.**

Business Computer Information Systems I (BCIS)

This course introduces basic concepts and skills related to microcomputer systems. Special emphasis will be placed on developing technology skills with applications to personal or business situations focusing on word processing, databases, spreadsheets, telecommunications, desktop publishing, presentation management, networking, operating systems, and emerging technologies.

High School Credit will be earned upon completion of this course for a Technology Applications graduation requirement.

Multi Media

This course introduces students to a wide range of digital media process and applications. These classes are challenging, but approach each application in a first time user, easy to understand way. The basics of using sophisticated software packages will be shown, and through practice and projects, the opportunity to master those basics will be given to students. Students will learn how to create professional looking graphics, presentations, and web sites.

Journalism: Yearbook

Prerequisite: Application or recommendation of 7th grade Language Arts teacher

This course teaches students yearbook design and composition. Direct application is achieved by composing the school yearbook. Students are instructed in basic photography skills and student photography is featured in the yearbook.

Leadership

Prerequisite: Application/approval

Teen Leadership is a program in which students develop leadership, personal, and business skills. They work on developing a healthy self-concept, healthy relationships, and an understanding of responsibility. Students develop skills in public speaking, communication, and principle-based decision making. Peer pressure and refusal skills will be explored along with the need for vision in personal goal setting. Selected students will attend the PAS (Prejudice Awareness Summit) in the fall. Various activities that promote tolerance will be implemented throughout the year. Also, students will be selected to perform as peer mediators, helping peers to resolve conflicts

Lifetime Fitness/Health

In this course, students develop knowledge and skills in activities that promote an active lifestyle though individual and lifetime recreational sport activities. Activities may include golf, tennis, bowling, archery, horseshoes, Frisbee, basketball, soccer, disc golf, badminton, table tennis, softball, volleyball, floor hockey, team handball, etc. Students may opt to take a full year of Lifetime Fitness or students have an opportunity to take Health second semester. **This course meets the high school Health credit required for graduation.**

Lifetime Fitness/Outdoor Education

In this course, students develop knowledge and skills in activities that promote an active lifestyle through individual and lifetime recreational sport activities. Activities may include golf, tennis, bowling, archery, horseshoes, Frisbee, basketball, soccer, disc golf, badminton, table tennis, softball, volleyball, floor hockey, team handball, etc. In addition, students will develop knowledge and skills in outdoor educational activities that promote an active lifestyle and physical fitness though such skills as hiking, biking, basic first aid, backpacking, etc. **A fee may be required.**

Athletics (full year elective)

A physical exam is required each year and UIL approved forms are to be used. All paperwork must be completed before students are allowed to try out or participate. Students must pass all courses to be eligible to compete.

This course involves instruction, skill development, rules, officiating, and fundamentals for team members in each particular sport area and involves **before and after school practice. Transportation to and from practice is the responsibility of the student.** Students may be involved in competition against other schools, which will require traveling, and students will have to be picked up after games.

Sports include football, basketball, and track for boys and volleyball, basketball, and track for girls.

Dance 7/8

Open to girls and boys. This course is an introduction to the terminology and general principles of dance. Students will learn how to perform beginning movements of a variety of dance forms, including ballet, jazz, folk and social, modern, and tap. Students will also learn basic elements of choreography. Class concerts and performances are required. **Students are required to purchase dancewear for this course.**

Office Skills

Approval will be based on application process and good citizenship.

This course assigns students to work in a specific area of the school (i.e. attendance office, main office, counseling office, nurse's office, library, teacher aide). Since the assignment areas vary, duties will vary, as well.