

8th grade Elective Course Descriptions

2024/2025

APPLIED TECHNOLOGY AND DESIGN I/II

This course is designed to teach the basics in graphic communication, construction and manufacturing. Industrial Tech II explores the concepts, processes and effects of various types of technology. Laboratory and computer-based activities allow students to discover and expand their own skills -- from design to fabrication.

ART I/II

Students in this course will enhance their abilities in line drawings, pen and ink cross hatching, color stippling, marker rendering, collage making, watercolor and pastel painting. The principles of art and elements of design will still be emphasized. Art II continues to enhance students' skills in line, value and color drawings as well as painting and sculpture.

BAND 8

Previous Experience Required. This course is a study of advanced fundamental technical development and large ensemble performance. The major topics covered in this class will be Band Method III and traditional and contemporary band music. Other features of this course are participation in school assembly programs and evening concerts. This is for eighth grade students who have played their band instruments for more than one year.

BEGINNING BAND

This course is a study of the basic elements of music tonal production and skill development. The major topics covered in this class will be Band Method I and concert preparation. This is for students interested in learning to play a band instrument for the first time or learning a new instrument. Some students enrolled in Beginning Band will continue their course of study in Band 8 second semester.

BEGINNING DANCE

The purpose of this course is to promote Dance, Yoga and Aerobics. Dance will focus on both guided line dances and self-created dances while learning basic terminology, rhythm, and tempos. Yoga will concentrate on the development of the core muscle groups—abdomen, lower back, hips, and buttocks with emphasis on stretching and relaxing the mind and body. Aerobics will be introduced in both beginning dance and yoga with a focus on cardio-respiratory fitness, using step aerobics, set to music and other aerobic type activities. This class is open to 8th grade girls and boys.

BEGINNING ORCHESTRA

This course is for students interested in learning to play a string instrument for the first time or learning a new string instrument. This course is a study of basic string playing including note reading, tone production, skill development, and concert preparation. String instrument choices include violin, viola, cello, bass.

EXPLORATION OF FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

This course explores a variety of curricula in relation to Family and Consumer Sciences and works toward developing skills essential for life management and career development. Areas of study may include Culinary Arts, Child Development, Fashion Design, Interior Design, and Life Management. Demonstrations, group activities, community relations/service projects, and cooperative learning experiences enhance this class.

INTERMEDIATE CHOIR

This course is a study of intermediate music concepts: music reading skills with emphasis on solfege, vocal technique and performance skills. The purpose of this course is to encourage students to have fun while studying different types of music; including traditional, musical theater, jazz and other popular styles, as well as music in foreign languages. No previous experience is required and students will not be required to sing alone.

INTRODUCTORY WEIGHT TRAINING

This course is broken into two semesters-Weights I/Weights II. Students will gain an understanding of the importance of muscle development and stamina, through proper weightlifting techniques. The implementation of safety and terminology will help students learn how to develop a weight training program, designed around their own needs, goals and strengths. They will learn to make connections between anatomy and weight training. Students will be evaluated on their own improvement and their ability to construct and follow an effective personal workout plan.

MENTORSHIPS (Unified PE Mentors & Unified Art/Theatre Mentors)

These courses combine students of all abilities to participate in developmentally appropriate activities including physical fitness, sport, visual and performing arts. Students will work together to increase competence and confidence. Through ongoing leadership opportunities, members of this course will be empowered to help create a more inclusive and accepting school environment for all students.

ORCHESTRA 8

Previous Experience Required. This course is a continuation of intermediate scales, bowings and techniques including fourth position, as well as chamber music ensemble experience. Performance attendance is required.

SPANISH I

This is a high school level course that will introduce the basics of Spanish language and culture. Students will build proficiency in the three modes of communication according to the Arizona and national standards: interpretive, interpersonal and presentational. Emphasis will be placed on real-world application of language skills. The concepts are taught through a variety of cultural themes, authentic resources and instructional techniques. Students will be expected to actively use their language skills each day to build proficiency - speaking, reading, writing and listening to authentic language. The letter grade received in this course will be documented on the high school transcript and will NOT be factored into the student's high school GPA.

TEAM SPORTS

This course provides each student with the opportunity to participate in activities consisting of skill development, lead-up games, individual and team sports, as well as, lifetime activities. The students receive instruction in rules, skills, and strategies associated with the different sports and activities. This course promotes the spirit of cooperation, leadership, fair play, and friendly competition. This course will focus on activities such as: Lacrosse, Basketball, Softball, Soccer, Ultimate Frisbee, Volleyball, Handball, Football, Badminton, Archery, Dodgeball, and Floor Hockey. This class is open to 8th grade girls and boys.

THEATRE II

This course is an introductory study of various aspects of theatre. Major topics will include acting, movement, stage vocabulary and oral speaking. Units of study will include monologues, skit writing, improvisation, theatre design, one-act-plays and creative dramatics.

VIDEO TECHNOLOGY

Students will create weekly video broadcasts that encompass a wide range of topics including important school news and other announcements, encouraging students to join clubs and athletic teams on campus, explain the importance and purpose of school rules and procedures, highlighting student achievement, and provide a video record of major events that occur on campus.

YEARBOOK

This course creates a 100+ page volume of junior high memories. Students in this class are people who are idea-oriented, creative, original, and hardworking. Photographers, graphic artists, and budding writers are encouraged to apply. Competent writing skills and computer literacy are advantages. Students in this class will gain an understanding of layout design, desktop publishing, marketing, sales, interviewing, copywriting and editing, and photography. Students will work in groups where cooperation, responsibility and effort are a must. Attendance at before-school, after-school, and lunch staff meetings will be required periodically.