

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Elective Course Descriptions 2026/2027

### **ART**

This course is designed to complement Introduction to Art by continuing to explore various kinds of art. Students 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 be emphasized. This is a specialized class for students who enjoy art. Students may enter their artwork in the school's spring art exhibit.

### **DIGITAL ART**

This class is a short introduction to various apps from Adobe Creative Cloud which could include: Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Premiere Pro, Creative Cloud Express and Procreate for Tablets. Focus will be on introducing an overview on each program to create beginning level multimedia, through graphic art, animation, video production and editing, infographics, and photo editing.

### **COMPUTER SCIENCE**

This course is an introduction to computer science and software engineering. Through project-based learning, students will explore a variety of programming systems and languages to create interactive applications and systems. Students will learn problem solving, foundations of computer science, software design, and debugging strategies. Additionally, students will work on "hands on" projects in graphics, gaming, animation, and art.

### **FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES**

This course explores a variety of curriculum 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.

### **STEM**

Students in this class will learn how to use the Engineering Design Process to create solutions to real world challenges in a problem-based setting. This is a STEM class that utilizes the Project Lead the Way curriculum. Units may include: Design and Modeling, Automation and Robotics, Computer Science for Innovators and Makers, App Creators, Science of Technology and Green Architecture.

### **BAND**

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 students who have played their band instruments for more than one year.

### **CHOIR**

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

### **ORCHESTRA**

Previous Experience Required. This course is a continuation of Orchestra I including advanced scales, bowings, and string techniques. This class includes quarterly concerts and adjudicated festival opportunities. Performance attendance is required.

### **THEATRE**

Students taking this course will study various genres of the Theatre. Students will gain and demonstrate skills through acting, stage movement, pantomime, improvisation, Theatre history, script writing, and characterization. Students will learn and use Theatre vocabulary in activities, in addition to reinforcing their literacy skills.

### **YEARBOOK**

This course creates a 100+ page volume of junior high memories. Students in this class 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.

### **SPANISH I**

This high school course introduces students to the fundamentals of the Spanish language and culture. Students will develop proficiency in the three modes of communication—interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational—outlined by the Arizona and national standards. Emphasis is placed on the real-world application of language skills through engaging cultural themes, authentic texts and materials, and a variety of instructional strategies. Students are expected to actively use Spanish each day—speaking, listening, reading, and writing—to build and strengthen their language proficiency. The letter grade received in this course will be documented on the high school transcript and will be factored into the student's high school GPA.

### **BEGINNING DANCE/ YOGA**

This course will include an introduction to various dance styles. Emphasis will be placed on awareness of technique/skill, history, knowledge, improvisation, and aesthetics of each dance style. Students will participate and relate dance as a lifetime fitness and health-related activity. This course will also introduce students to beginning yoga asanas. Emphasis will be placed on awareness of technique, skill, flexibility, posture, history, knowledge, vocabulary, core strength, and aesthetics of each asana. Students will learn and apply components of health-related fitness. Cardiovascular conditioning will be taught on a regular basis.

### **TEAM SPORTS**

This course will provide an opportunity for students who have a high level of interest and skill in team sports to participate in offerings such as softball, volleyball, soccer, flag football, basketball and other sports. The health-related physical fitness test is administered twice each semester. This class is not AIA competitive.

### **WEIGHT TRAINING**

This course will introduce resistance training and include a variety of exercises, techniques and programs. Students will learn and apply health-related concepts, proper nutrition and physiology. Students will learn and demonstrate correct techniques of core lifts, which may include squat and power clean. Cardiovascular conditioning and individual fitness assessments will be included.

### **UNIFIED PHYSICAL EDUCATION - STUDENT MENTOR**

This course will provide inclusive opportunities for all students, creating a collaborative learning community, in a daily physical education class. This class matches PE across grade levels to benefit all students involved.

### **UNIFIED ART - STUDENT MENTOR**

This course will provide inclusive opportunities for all students, creating a collaborative learning community, in a daily art class. It will introduce students to the basic elements and principles of design. Students will learn drawing techniques emphasizing line, positive/negative space, perspective, value, texture, lettering, and portrait proportion by utilizing black and white media. Students will also explore studies in color using drawing and painting techniques.

### **ADVANCED ELECTIVES**

Please see 26-27 Course Description Book under ACADEMICS > COURSE DESCRIPTIONS on the District Website. These courses are by audition only.