

2016-2017 Course Descriptions

8th Grade Creative Writing

This course is designed to expand students' awareness of and skill in different types of writing. You will be encouraged to think about reading as a creative act as we examine and write our own fiction (short story), creative nonfiction (memoir, lyrics, personal essay), poetry and much more. **Credit=1**

8th Grade Literature

A course study of novels, short stories, and other literary works by great authors throughout time. Find out why Shakespeare rocked, why Dickens wrote the 2nd best Christmas story ever told, and how stories were used by authors to teach life lessons throughout the ages. **Credit=1**

8th Grade Writing/Publishing – Auto Biography

A writing class involving the most inspirational and best known subject- You! Create, edit, print, and 'publish' your life story in a hard-bound, autobiographical book you will cherish and keep forever. (A course materials fee of 25.00 is required) **Credit=.5**

Band (6th Grade Band, Percussion Ensemble, JV Band, Concert Band, Symphonic Band)

Requirements/Prerequisites: Beginning band students are not required to have any previous music training. Students signing up for PERCUSSION need to have already completed two years of piano lessons. Band members who are returning for their second or third year of band will be placed in the appropriate band class (listed above) after demonstrating their proficiency level.

Course Description: Band students have fun learning how to play a band instrument while building self-discipline, teamwork skills, and self-esteem through individual and group rehearsal settings. Band students are able to progress at their own pace based on their individual work ethics. All band students are placed in appropriate band classes based on their ability to reach predetermined levels of proficiency. It is expected that students registering for band will remain in the class for the duration of the school year. Band students will have at least one required evening performance per quarter.

Fees: No fees. Students are, however, required to provide their own band instrument for the class. The school has a few older, used instruments reserved for students who qualify for fee-waivers. All band students will be required to purchase a technique book for their particular band class (\$10). **Credit=1**

Business and Marketing (Yearbook)

Students will be exposed to the fundamental concepts of business and marketing through the making of the yearbook. Skills include basic business concepts, organizational communication, human resources management, entrepreneurship, accounting, finance, and leadership. **Credit=.5**

Business Digital Literacy (Multi-Media)

This course is an introduction to computer literacy. Students will have opportunities to use technology and develop skills that encourage creativity, critical thinking, productivity, and collaboration in the classroom and day-to-day life. Skills will be demonstrated by creating projects for several content areas of study, including, careers in: Computer graphic design; computer animation; and website design.

Our studies will include learning the basics of using computers for graphic design and computer animation. You will create numerous graphic designs as well as many computer animations, including, at least, one large animation project. We will learn the basics of creating a website and each student will create a portfolio website to showcase their graphic and animation work.

Software application software we will be learning will include Adobe Fireworks, Adobe Flash and Adobe Dreamweaver **Credit=.5**

Choir

This course is an introduction to vocal music at the middle school level. Vocal techniques and music reading are emphasized, and students are given the opportunity to explore various musical sources and styles. Students will have some performance opportunities. **Credit=.5**
Fees: \$10.00

Creative Coding

This course is designed to introduce middle school students to a variety of programming environments. The students will be using simple coding to create projects, animations, games, apps, etc. Students will be expected to be creative, collaborate, plan and share their projects. **Credit=.5**

FACS Exploration

This course provides students the opportunity to develop essential skills in the various areas related to Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS). Students will explore and cultivate skills in food and nutrition sciences, childcare, interior design, clothing and textile construction, fashion design, entrepreneurship, family relationships, personal responsibility, and career and job-related tasks.

Fees: \$15.00 to pay for food for the food labs.

Students will be responsible for the supplies for their own sewing projects. **Credit=.5**

Intro to Literature-7th Grade

This course is designed to enhance enjoyment and understanding of literature while challenging and increasing literary analysis skills. Students will read and study genres including poetry, short story and the novel. Reading material will support 7th grade core curriculum themes and subject matter. **Credit=1**

Musical Theatre

Students will become familiar with drama, theatrical art and design, music and dance. Students will learn some basic history of each area and will do projects in each area of focus. Much of this class will be production based. Participation is very important for those wishing to enroll in performing arts.

Fees: \$15.00 Credit=.5

Orchestra (Beginning, Intermediate and Advanced)

Audition with instructor is required.

Orchestras are ensemble classes with limited individual instruction and maximum group instruction. Students will study string techniques, note reading, scales, tuning, theory, ear-training and music history. Students will play a variety of orchestra music and perform in several concerts throughout the year.

Fees: Students are required to have their own instrument. A limited number of cellos and basses are available from the district for rent. Violins and Violas are not offered for rent; it is expected that students rent these instruments from local music stores. Orchestra shirts are required as part of concert dress. **Credit=1**

Office Aide/Teacher Aide

Open to 8th grade students only. Must have above a 3.0 GPA and no D, F, N, U grades. Students will assist teachers or office staff with various assignments. Application required.

Credit=.5

Peer Tutor

Open to 8th grade students only. No N, or U in citizenship. Students will have an opportunity to work with students with disabilities. Students will assist in the process of these students developing the ability to learn essential life skills to function more effectively in the community. **Credit=.5**

Spanish

Open to 7th and 8th grade students. Students will learn to speak, understand, read and write basic Spanish. Students will be introduced to the cultures of several countries in which Spanish is spoken. Spanish is learned through speaking, reading, writing, singing, dancing etc. **Credit=.5**

Speech and Debate

This course is designed to help students develop public speaking and debate skills. Students will be introduced to impromptu (improvisation), extemporaneous (current event commentary), expository (informational), and oratory (persuasive) speaking, as well as having the opportunity to compete in Public Forum team debates in a classroom setting. Competitions are informal and wins or losses will not determine grades. This is a great preparatory course for those who think they might be interested in High School debate.

Credit=.5

Supplemental LA

Supplemental LA is a language arts class where students receive help on work and concepts taught during their language arts class. Students will identify and practice basic skills in the form of reading and writing groups. **Credit=1**

Supplemental Math

Supplemental Math is a math class where students receive help on work and concepts taught during the grade-level math class. Students will identify and practice basic skills they may have missed in earlier years. **Credit=1**

Technology

Exploring Technology is an action-based course to introduce students to agriculture, energy and power, transportation, manufacturing and construction. There will be a variety of activities for each area. We build several small projects after a safety unit is completed.

Fees: \$15 Credit=.5

Theatre Foundations

This class develops the student as participant, listener, observer and critique. By having students create characters and learn to respond through improvisation to new situations and genres of theatre. All students are required to perform and participate with all assignments. The four main elements of theatre (audience, script, performer, technical) will be touched on.

Fees: \$5.00 Credit=.5

Visual Arts I

Students will create works of art by experiencing a variety of art mediums and by learning basic art elements and principles. Studies will include Drawing, Cultural Art, Careers and Contests.

Fees: \$15 Credit=.5

Visual Arts II

Open to 8th graders who successfully passed Visual Arts I. Visual Arts II is a continuation of Visual Arts I. This class will be more challenging and will reinforce the elements and principals of art. Students will have the opportunity to work with a variety of art mediums, art styles and art history.

Fees \$15 Credit=.5

Word Processing Basics (Keyboarding)

This course is designed to increase student keyboarding skill through drill practice and reinforcement of correct techniques. Students will use word processing software to create, format and edit personal and business documents. **Credit=.5**