

2018-2019 Course Descriptions

American Sign Language (ASL)-7th and 8th Grade

This is a beginning course, teaching students the basics of American Sign Language within a cultural context. Emphasis is placed on the development of basic expressive and receptive skills. **Credit=.5**

Band (6th Grade Band, Percussion Ensemble, JV Band, Concert Band, Symphonic Band) **6th-8th grade**

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**

Basic Skills-7th & 8th Grade By Permission Only

This course is designed to support students in their daily academic needs through a study hall format. Teacher recommendation required. **Credit=.5, 1**

Chinese-8th Grade

An introduction to Chinese language and culture. This class is taught through a partnership with SUU Confucius institute. This is a good basic introduction for Chinese in the high school setting. **Credit=1**

Choir-7th & 8th Grade

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, 1**

Creative Coding-7th & 8th Grade

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**

Creative Writing-8th grade only

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=.5**

FACS Exploration-8th Grade Only

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**

Keyboarding-7th & 8th Grade

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**

Humanities (Literature)-8th grade only

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=.5**

Musical Theatre-7th & 8th Grade

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. **6th-8th Grade**

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-8th Grade Only

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-8th Grade 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-7th & 8th Grade

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**

Debate-7th and 8th Grade

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- 7th & 8th Grade By Permission Only

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-7th & 8th Grade By Permission Only

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-8th Grade Only (Shop)

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

Technology II-8th Grade Only (Shop)

Technology II is a continuation of Technology I, where principles learned there will be reinforced and expanded. Students will have an opportunity to complete more in-depth woodworking projects.

Fees: \$15 Credit=.5

Theatre Foundations-7th & 8th Grade

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-7th & 8th Grade

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 2D- 8th Grade

Open to students 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

Visual Arts 3-D- 8th Grade

Open to students who successfully passed Visual Arts I. Visual Arts 3-D will focus on 3 dimensional art through the use of multiple mediums. **Fees \$15 Credit=.5**