

## 2017-18 Elective Course Descriptions

**Beginning Band (6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grades):** No previous musical experience is required. The fundamentals of playing an instrument and music reading skills are stressed. Beginning Band performs a Holiday Concert, Spring Concert, and one or two school-wide assemblies. The Beginning Band also performs a “mini-concert” for their parents during the school day in October. In addition, they participate in an all-day field trip in the spring.

**Symphonic Band (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grades):** One year of beginning band experience is required. The curriculum continues to stress the fundamentals of playing an instrument and reading music accurately. A special effort is made to prepare the students for proficiency at the high school level. The symphonic band performs at pep rallies, two home football games, assemblies, the holiday concert, and the spring concert. The symphonic band also performs at Music Performance Assessment (state-sanctioned adjudicated performance). All band students will be required to pass off their music to Mr. Bryant prior to Music Performance Assessment. All members are strongly urged to participate in the solo and ensemble festival in April-May. Interested students are encouraged to participate in U.A.B. Junior High Honor Band and to audition for Alabama Junior High All-State Band. The symphonic band will also participate in a nationally recognized band competition or workshop during the spring.

**Art Survey:** Students will learn to improve their artistic skills in a variety of areas including drawing, painting, ceramics, printmaking, and mixed media. Curriculum will also include art history, professional studio practices, and art criticism. Art students are eligible to travel on a spring trip with the art department.

**3D Arts and Crafts:** This new arts class focuses on 3D art such as ceramics and sculpture, as well as crafting projects such as string art, basket weaving, small metals, wood carving, and wood burning. Curriculum will also include art history, professional studio practices, and art criticism. Art students are eligible to travel on a spring trip with the art department.

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir:** Students are introduced to the fundamentals of choral singing and sight singing. This choir performs a few times a year in concerts and festivals. There is no audition required to be in this choir, and students never have to sing by themselves. Students must have a positive attitude and a willingness to learn. These students are eligible to travel with the Choral Department on its annual 6<sup>th</sup> grade choir trip to Atlanta.

**Girls' Choir and Boys' Choir:** Students learn the fundamentals of choral singing, sight singing, music theory, and composing. These choirs perform several times a year in assemblies, festivals, competitions, and around the community. There is no audition required to be in this choir, and students never have to sing by themselves. Students must have a positive attitude and a willingness to learn. These students are eligible to travel with the Choral Department on its annual spring trip to either Orlando or New York City.

**Family and Consumer Science 7:** Teen Discoveries is an exploratory course for Grade 7 students. An emphasis is placed on understanding the physical, intellectual, emotional, and social development of teenagers. Course content provides opportunities for students to explore decision making, problem solving, and goal setting; development of manners, grooming habits, and character education; social and communication skills; interpersonal relationships with family members, friends, and peers; family roles and responsibilities; peer pressure; clothing selection and care; babysitting; arrangement of living space; food choice, food preparation, and development of health and wellness habits; technology and career awareness.

**Family and Consumer Science 8:** Teen Connections is designed for students in Grade 8. Topics focus on teen connections in the home, school, and community. Course content provides opportunities for students to explore personal development; the impact of values, goals, decision making, and time management; conflict resolution; identifying family structures; member's roles and responsibilities; changes and challenges faced throughout the family life cycle; health, wellness, and a healthy appearance; money management and teen consumer decisions; teen clothing decisions; stages of child development; first-aid techniques; organizing and maintaining teen living space; home safety; technology; and skills needed for workplace success.

**Career Preparedness A (8<sup>th</sup> grade only):** This is a semester course and is required for High School graduation to prepare students with knowledge and skills in the areas of career development, academic planning, and computer skill application. Completing this course fulfills one-half of the Career Preparedness graduation requirement for all high school students. Students will be given opportunities to take Career Preparedness B through summer school or in high school to complete the requirement of taking both Career Preparedness A and B for graduation. This class is paired with Digital Photography.

### **World Languages**

**French, German, and Spanish:** World Language classes focus on building beginning proficiency in the target language across two years. Specific emphasis is given to speaking and vocabulary building, such as learning sentence structures and understanding the spoken word, including situational vocabulary. Special attention is also given to the integration of cultural aspects of the communities in which the target language is spoken. Successful completion of the eighth-grade course prepares students to progress into level II of the target language in high school.

\*World Language courses are available to 7<sup>th</sup> grade students and require a two-year course commitment to adequately prepare students for the language track in high school.

**Coding (Creating with Code):** This class is open to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, and the course is based on the belief that to be fluent with digital technology, students must learn to interact with computers and to create with them. The course is structured to allow students to move quickly from beginning programming concepts to in-depth, individualized learning utilizing a variety of online options. A primary resource is a programming language from MIT called Scratch, which allows students to create interactive stories, games, and animations to learn core concepts such as iteration and

conditionals; coordinates, variables, and random numbers. The “Creating with Code” class combines critical 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills to prepare students for success.

**Digital Photography:** This semester course, paired with Career Preparedness A, will help students become well rounded in the fundamentals of Digital Photography. The four areas of instruction that will be emphasized are how cameras work, photography elements, how lighting works, and how to use photo editing software.