

7th Grade Elective Course Descriptions

Introduction to Computer Applications

Through hands on projects, students will learn word processing, spreadsheet and graphing, multimedia presentation, web site design, and desktop publishing using Microsoft Office. Students will also learn basic programming in Scratch. In addition, students will learn typing techniques, internet safety, research strategies, and basic computer components.

Beginning Band

For students with little or no experience (two years or less) playing a woodwind instrument. Instruments represented include the clarinet, bass clarinet, flute, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, French horn, and tuba. Students will learn the basics of playing the instruments, as well as note reading and basic music theory. Music in a variety of styles will be played. Two concerts will be given per year. Participation at after school events is mandatory.

Beginning Strings

For students with little or no experience (two years or less) playing a stringed instrument. String instruments represented include the violin, viola, cello, and bass. Students will learn the basics of playing the instruments, as well as note reading and basic music theory. Music in a variety of styles will be played. Two concerts will be given per year. Participation at after school events is mandatory.

Advanced Band

For students with two or more years of experience playing a band instrument. Students must be able to read music and play the Bb, Eb, and Ab major scales to audition. Students will continue to develop skills in music theory and note reading while playing a variety of music. Two concerts will be given per year after school – attendance at these events is mandatory. Other out-of-school functions will take place throughout the year which students will be asked to participate in.

Orchestra

For students with two or more years of experience playing a stringed instrument. Students must be able to read music and play the D, G, and C major scales to audition as 6th graders. Students will continue to develop skills in music theory and note reading while playing a variety of music. Two concerts will be given per year after school – attendance at these events is mandatory. Other out-of-school functions will take place throughout the year which students will be asked to participate in.

Orff/World Music Ensemble

Students will sing and play a variety of instruments, including body percussion, various hand drums and percussion instruments (African djembes and congas, for example), and xylophones. We will compose and improvise on music from around the world. There is no “pre-requisite” for this class. All you need is a desire to play music and discover your own inner voice and creativity through music. There will also be opportunities to explore creativity through movement and dance, but the main purpose of this course is to develop creativity through singing and playing music. All are welcome, especially those who aren’t currently involved in the school’s band or orchestra.

Woodshop

In woodshop, we learn about safe practices in woodshop, how to use hand tools properly, and we move on to power tools by the second semester. We will make many projects, including a sky hook, a note holder, a key holder, a hoop project, a gumball machine, and many more. Most projects are done by hand so students can learn how wood works and how to make it do what they want before using machines. We will learn about strong shapes and structures. We will learn finish practices as well, including how to sand properly and put a coat of finish on a project.

Man-Up

This course is designed to address the needs of African-American males with a focus on providing additional support to be successful in middle school and the prerequisite skills needed to succeed in high school and college. The curriculum addresses areas of self-management, self-awareness, responsible decision-making, and relationship skills.

Leadership

Leadership is designed to encourage and empower students to make a positive impact in their school, local, and global communities. In Leadership, students get the opportunity to express their thoughts, beliefs, and identities, while also learning about important human rights issues. Not only do leadership students learn how to become compassionate and impactful leaders, but they also undertake exciting projects designed to promote social justice and improve school culture.

Spanish A

Spanish A is the basic introduction to the Spanish language. Focus of the class is speaking and communicating in the target language using stories, projects and group work. The main objective of the course is introducing students to the culture and language of Spanish speaking peoples, equip students with basic communication skills, and provide a strong grammatical base.

Newspaper/Journalism

Students will gain relevant experience in the field of journalism. During the process of creating the school’s student-written newspaper, students will work individually and in groups to develop research skills, conduct interviews, write and edit stories, photograph events, and design the publication’s layout. Event reporting, op/ed pieces, student/teacher profiles, sports writing, art reviews, and many other distinct types of journalism will be explored. Students will also analyze the past, present, and future of print journalism.