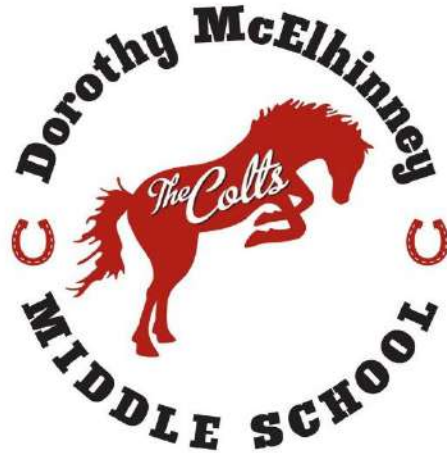


# Dorothy McElhinney Middle School

2017-2018 Course Catalog



Tom Patane  
Principal

Kaitlin Punzel  
Assistant Principal

Jared Rogers  
Assistant Principal

Christine Wood  
Counselor A-K

Rachel Robinson  
Counselor L-Z



35125 Briggs Road Murrieta, CA 92563  
(951) 304-1885

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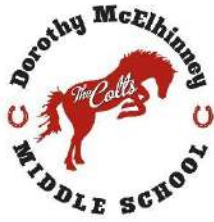
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**DOROTHY MCELHINNEY MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT:**

*Developing Students Academically, Artistically, and Socially to become Independent, Cooperative, Responsible and Creative learners with a lifelong appreciation for the Arts.*

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**L**eadership

**E**ducation

**A**rts

**D**etermination

---

# Dorothy McElhinney Middle School



35125 Briggs Rd., Murrieta, CA 92563

Phone: 951.304.1885

Fax: 951.304.1889

Office Hours: Monday - Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

## Administration/Office Staff

Tom Patane, <a href="#">Principal</a> .....	Ext. 3699
Kaitlin Punzel, <a href="#">Assistant Principal</a> .....	Ext. 3697
Jared Rogers, <a href="#">Assistant Principal</a> .....	Ext. 3698
Christine Wood, <a href="#">Counselor (A-K)</a> .....	Ext. 3689
Rachel Robinson, <a href="#">Counselor (L-Z)</a> .....	Ext. 3688
Toni Valenzuela, Secretary.....	Ext. 3695
Jill Goedken, Attendance .....	Ext. 3681
Christine Beadles, Registrar/Guidance Technician .....	Ext. 3690
Valerie Schmidt, Bookkeeper .....	Ext. 3677
Carissa Hoffman, School Nurse>>.....	Ext. 3692
Trisha Sanders, Health Technician .....	Ext. 3693
Marie Hamilton, Librarian.....	Ext. 3581/3582

# LANGUAGE ARTS

## Course Descriptions

### Intensive LA/SS

Course # 23010

**Grade Level(s):** 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** 1 Year

**Prerequisite(s):** SRI and SBAC scores in the below basic range, teacher recommendation

This course will focus on the use of Scholastic programs including Read 180 Next Generation and System 44 Next Generation materials and software as a replacement curriculum, to improve reading comprehension. Students will be exposed to and read from a variety of sources including nonfiction, literature, as well as poetry.

### Language Arts 6

Course # 23600

**Grade Level(s):** 6<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** 1 Year

**Prerequisite(s):** N/A

This course will focus on nonfiction and literary texts, critical reading, essays, the writing process, and an introduction on how to provide supporting evidence through analysis of different genres. With the focus on the three modes of written discourse, students will read a variety of works modeling the styles of writing. Literature and nonfiction texts will be studied within the context of a writing based curriculum that will help students think and write critically. Students will construct a variety of academic essays with careful consideration of audience, purpose, tone and appropriate rhetorical mode. Grammar and paragraphing will be addressed as well as strategies to develop academic vocabulary. Students will take part in collaborative conversations in class and through the use of technology to develop academic language and to effectively access rigorous curriculum. Assessments will include performance tasks, conventional assessments, multimedia presentations, portfolios and published products.

### Advanced Language Arts 6

Course # 23601

**Grade Level(s):** 6<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** 1 Year

**Prerequisite(s):** A/B in 5th grade Language Arts, Advanced test scores and teacher recommendation.

The 6th grade Advanced English Language Arts course will provide students with a challenging curriculum that teaches to the same standards as the English/Language Arts 6 course. At the advanced level, extended learning activities will require students to increase their use of critical thinking skills to include analysis, synthesis, and problem solving. The curriculum moves at an accelerated pace with a more concentrated focus.

In the advanced course, students will focus on independent, in-depth reading of challenging texts with greater emphasis on higher level thinking skills. Advanced students are expected to read and write extensively, engage in higher levels of discourse, and participate in frequent project-based learning opportunities.

### **Language Arts 7**

Course # 23700

**Grade Level(s):** 7<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** 1 Year

**Prerequisite(s):** N/A

This course will focus on nonfiction and literature texts, critical reading, essays, the writing process, and an introduction to academic research fundamentals while using MLA format. With the focus on the three modes of written discourse, students will read a variety of works modeling the styles of writing. Literature and nonfiction texts will be studied within the context of a writing based curriculum that will help students think and write critically. Students will construct a variety of academic essays with careful consideration of audience, purpose, tone and appropriate rhetorical mode. Grammar and paragraphing will be addressed as well as strategies to develop academic vocabulary. Students will take part in collaborative conversations in class and through the use of technology to develop academic language and to effectively access rigorous curriculum. Assessments will include performance tasks, conventional assessments, multimedia presentations, portfolios and published products.

### **Advanced Language Arts 7**

Course # 23701

**Grade Level(s):** 7<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** 1 Year

**Prerequisite(s):** A/B in 6th grade language arts, advanced test scores and teacher recommendation.

This course will focus on nonfiction and literature, critical reading, essays, the writing process, and an introduction to academic research fundamentals. Students will construct a variety of academic essays with careful consideration of audience, purpose, tone and appropriate rhetorical mode. Literature and nonfiction texts will be studied within the context of a writing based curriculum that will help students think and write critically. With the focus on the three modes of written discourse, students will read a variety of works modeling the style of writing. Grammar and paragraphing will be addressed as well as strategies to develop academic vocabulary. Students will take part in collaborative conversations in class and through the use of technology to effectively access rigorous curriculum. Assessment will include performance tasks, conventional assessments, multimedia presentations, portfolios and published products. In the advanced course, students will focus on independent, in-depth reading of challenging texts with greater emphasis on higher level thinking skills. Advanced students will read and write extensively.

## **Language Arts 8**

Course # 23800

**Grade Level(s):** 8<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** 1 Year

**Prerequisite(s):** N/A

This standards-based course will focus on nonfiction and literature (including stories, dramas, and poems), critical reading, essay and narrative styles, and a continuation of academic research fundamentals. Students will routinely read, write, evaluate, and revise academic essays for a wide range of academic tasks, purposes, and audiences. Literature and nonfiction texts will be studied within the context of a literacy-based curriculum that will foster critical thinking in both reading and writing. With the focus on the three modes of written discourse (argumentative, informative/explanatory, and narrative), students will read a variety of works modeling the styles of writing. Grammar, conventions, and paragraphing will be addressed, as well as strategies to build and skillfully implement academic vocabulary.

Students will routinely participate in meaningful, relevant, collaborative conversations in class and through blended learning approaches to effectively reflect upon and analyze a more rigorous curriculum. Assessment will include a variety of performance tasks, traditional and authentic assessments, multimedia presentations, portfolios, and published products. Students will be challenged to implement diffusing and emerging technologies to produce and publish writing, as well as for the development 21st Century skills for college and career readiness.

## **Advanced Language Arts 8**

Course # 23801

**Grade Level(s):** 8<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** 1 Year

**Prerequisite(s):** A/B in 7th grade language arts, advanced test scores and teacher recommendation.

The 8th grade Advanced English Language Arts course will provide students with a challenging curriculum that teaches to the same standards as the English Language Arts 8 course. At the advanced level, extended learning activities will require students to increase their use of critical thinking skills to include higher levels of analysis, synthesis, and problem solving. The curriculum moves at an accelerated pace with a more concentrated focus.

In the advanced course, students will focus on independent, in-depth reading of challenging texts with greater emphasis on higher level thinking skills. Advanced students are expected to read and write extensively, engage in higher levels of discourse, and participate in frequent project-based learning opportunities.

# SOCIAL STUDIES

## Course Descriptions

### Social Studies 6

Course # 24600

**Grade Level(s):** 6<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** 1 Year

**Prerequisite:** N/A

World history students will examine the ancient world from Pre-history through the Middle Ages using five key strands of social studies. While examining the history of the ancient world, students will analyze the connections among geography, government, culture, and economics. Students will also develop critical process skills for assessing issues, problem solving, decision-making and taking civic action.

### Social Studies 7

Course # 24700

**Grade Level(s):** 7<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** 1 Year

**Prerequisite:** N/A

Students will begin with the fall of the Western Roman Empire and conclude with the Enlightenment and the Age of Reason. This course roughly covers a 2,000 year period of time introducing cultures from five of the Seven Continents. In each society studied there will be six primary areas of emphasis: geography, culture, economics, government, religious beliefs, and technology.

### Social Studies 8

Course # 24800

**Grade Level(s):** 8<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** 1 Year

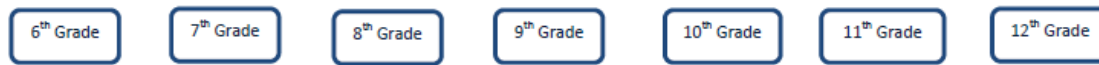
**Prerequisite:** N/A

In United States History 8, students will study U.S. history from the founding of English colonies in America to the United States' entrance into World War I. Students will learn to think and write like historians, utilizing skills such as sourcing, contextualizing, close reading, and corroboration. Students will examine the social, cultural, political and technological changes during this time in American history in an attempt to foster multicultural awareness and the recognition and application of the democratic values at the core of American society.

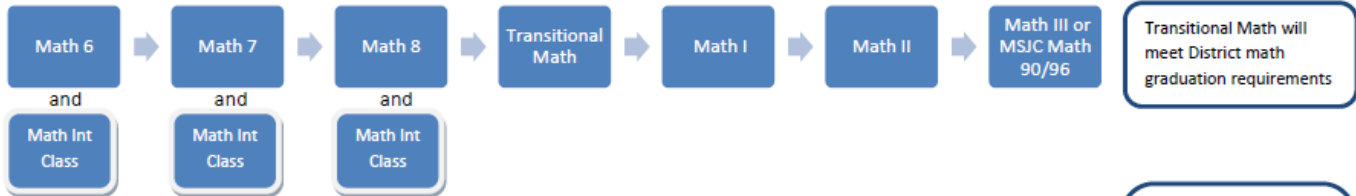


# MVUSD MATHEMATIC PATHWAYS

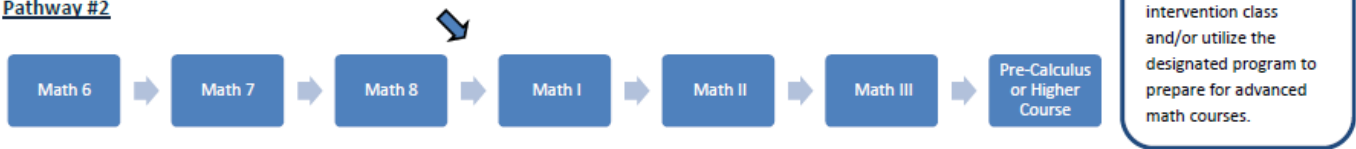
## District recommended sequence of Math courses



**Pathway #1** This pathway includes an additional intervention class for middle school with the goal of ensuring student success in mathematics.



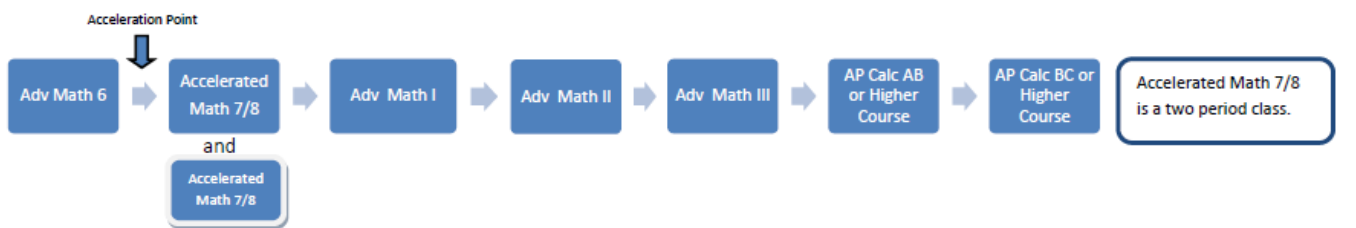
**Pathway #2**



**Pathway #3**



**Pathway #4**



- Math Pathway Information:**
- Students must pass Integrated Math I/Algebra I to fulfill California high school graduation requirements.
  - The three-year sequence of Math I, II, and III correspond to Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II Standards.
  - Students may move among pathways based on progress, needs and goals at any time.
  - STEM projects/activities will be included in all middle school math courses.
  - Students will be placed into math courses based on math grades, teacher recommendation, assessment scores and parent/counselor consultation.
  - There may be individual cases beyond the above course pathways that require individual attention and/or need for further advanced coursework based on student progress and performance.

# MATHEMATICS

## Course Descriptions

### Math 6

Course # 21600

**Grade Level(s):** 6<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Year

**Prerequisite(s):** N/A

This course meets the 6th grade California State Standards for Mathematics. Math 6 will emphasize the five domains including Ratios, Proportional Relationships, the Number System, Expressions, Equations, Geometry, Statistics and Probability. The first semester emphasizes the skills of working with numerical expressions and factors, algebraic expressions, properties, rates, ratios, and geometry. In addition, students will continue to build on prior knowledge of concepts such as fractions and decimals. The second semester focuses on integers, equations, inequalities, geometry, statistics and probability. Students will routinely use the standards for mathematical practice to make sense of problems, justify solutions and conclusions, model with mathematics, and strategically use technology to analyze and solve real world problems. STEM activities will be integrated throughout the course.

### Advanced Math 6

Course # 21605

**Grade Level(s):** 6<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Year

**Prerequisite(s):** A/B in Math 5, advanced test scores, and teacher recommendation.

This course meets the 6th grade California Standards for Mathematics. Students will deepen and extend their understanding of the five domains including Ratios, Proportional Relationships, the Number System, Expressions, Equations, Geometry, Statistics and Probability. The first semester emphasizes the skills of working with numerical expressions and factors, algebraic expressions, properties, rates, ratios, and geometry. In addition, students will continue to build on prior knowledge of concepts such as fractions and decimals. The second semester focuses on integers, equations, inequalities, geometry, statistics and probability. Students will routinely use the standards for mathematical practice to make sense of problems, justify solutions and conclusions, model with mathematics, and strategically use technology to analyze and solve real world problems. Interdisciplinary and STEM activities will be integrated throughout the course.

## **Math 7**

Course # 21705

**Grade Level(s):** 7<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Year

**Prerequisite(s):** N/A

This course meets the 7th grade California State Standards for Mathematics. Math 7 will emphasize the five domains including Ratios, Proportional Relationships, the Number System, Expressions, Equations, Geometry, Statistics and Probability. The first semester emphasizes the skills of rational number operations, equivalent expressions, solving problems using linear equations and inequalities. The second semester focuses on analyzing proportional relationships, geometric relationships, solving problems using angles, surface area, volume, and finding probability of events. Other topics will include drawing, constructing and describing geometrical figures and describing the relationships between them. Students will routinely use the standards for mathematical practice to make sense of problems, justify solutions and conclusions, model with mathematics, and strategically use technology to analyze and solve real world problems. STEM activities will be integrated throughout the course.

## **Advanced Math 7**

Course # 21606

**Grade Level(s):** 7<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Year

**Prerequisite(s):** A/B in Math 6, advanced test scores and teacher recommendation.

This course meets the 7th grade California State Standards for Mathematics. Students will deepen and extend their understanding of the five domains including Ratios, Proportional Relationships, the Number System, Expressions, Equations, Geometry, Statistics and Probability. The first semester emphasizes the skills of rational number operations, equivalent expressions, solving problems using linear equations and inequalities. The second semester focuses on analyzing proportional relationships, geometric relationships, solving problems using angles, surface area, volume, and finding probability of events. Other topics will include drawing, constructing and describing geometrical figures and describing the relationships between them. Students will routinely use the standards for mathematical practice to make sense of problems, justify solutions and conclusions, model with mathematics, and strategically use technology to analyze and solve real world problems. Interdisciplinary and STEM activities will be integrated throughout the course.

**Accelerated Math 7/8**

Course # 21807

**Grade Level(s):** 7<sup>th</sup>**Length of Course:** Year ( 2 periods)**Prerequisite(s):** A in Advanced Math 6, advanced test scores and teacher recommendation.

This accelerated course meets the 7th and 8th grade California State Standards for Mathematics in one school year. The amount of material to be covered requires that students to be enrolled in two class periods. Students will be prepared to take Advanced Math I (high school math course) in 8th grade which allows them to take Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), Dual Enrollment (DE) during their junior and senior year. This course completes all content from Advanced Math 7 and Advanced Math 8. Students will routinely use the standards for mathematical practice to make sense of problems, justify solutions and conclusions, model with mathematics, and strategically use technology to analyze and solve real world problems. Interdisciplinary and STEM activities will be integrated throughout the course.

**Math 8**

Course # 21805

**Grade Level(s):** 8<sup>th</sup>**Length of Course:** Year**Prerequisite(s):** N/A

This course meets the 8th grade California State Standards for Mathematics. Math 8 will emphasize the five domains including the Number System, Expressions, Equations, Functions, Geometry, Statistics and Probability. The first semester emphasizes the skills of real number operations, radicals and integer exponents, the connection between proportional relationships and linear equations, and solving systems of linear equations. The second semester focuses on defining and evaluating functions, modeling relationships, geometric congruence and similarity, Pythagorean Theorem, volume and statistics and probability. Students will routinely use the standards for mathematical practice to make sense of problems, justify solutions and conclusions, model with mathematics, and strategically use technology to analyze and solve real world problems. STEM activities will be integrated throughout the course.

### **Advanced Math 8**

Course # 21607

**Grade Level(s):** 8<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Year

**Prerequisite(s):** A/B in Advanced Math 7, A in Math 7, advanced test scores and teacher recommendation.

This course meets the 8th grade California State Standards for Mathematics. Students will deepen and extend their understanding of the five domains including the Number System, Expressions, Equations, Functions, Geometry, Statistics and Probability. The first semester emphasizes the skills of real number operations, radicals and integer exponents, the connection between proportional relationships and linear equations, and solving systems of linear equations. The second semester focuses on defining and evaluating functions, modeling relationships, geometric congruence and similarity, Pythagorean Theorem, volume and statistics and probability. Students will routinely use the standards for mathematical practice to make sense of problems, justify solutions and conclusions, model with mathematics, and strategically use technology to analyze and solve real world problems. Interdisciplinary and STEM activities will be integrated throughout the course.

### **Math I**

Course # 2212

**Grade Level(s):** 8-12

**Length of Course:** Year

**Prerequisite(s):** Completion Accelerated Math 7/8 with a C or better, advanced test scores, teacher recommendation.

This course meets UC/CSU (C) and district requirements for math credit. The critical areas of this course are: Relations and Functions, Linear Equations and Inequalities, Systems of Equations and Inequalities, Polynomial Expressions, Exponential Functions, Geometric Properties and Congruence, and Probability and Statistics. In addition, students will deepen and extend understanding of linear and exponential relationships by contrasting them with each other and by applying linear models to data. Students routinely use the standards for mathematical practice to make sense of problems, justify solutions and conclusions, model with mathematics, and strategically use technology to analyze and solve real-world problems.

# **SCIENCE**

## Course Descriptions

### **Science 6**

Course # 22600

**Grade Level(s):** 6<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Year

**Prerequisite(s):** N/A

This course covers grade 6 California science standards on plate tectonics and Earth's structure, shaping Earth's surface, heat and thermal energy, Energy in the Earth system, Ecology, Earth's resources, and investigation and experimentation. Students will complete investigative projects and activities designed to reinforce the principles of the scientific method. Students will be required to maintain an Earth Science Notebook which will contain notes, class assignments, lab work, homework assignments, and personal reflections. Multiple projects will be required throughout the school year.

### **Science 7**

Course # 22700

**Grade Level(s):** 7<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Year

**Prerequisite(s):** N/A

This course covers grade 7 California science standards on cell biology, genetics, evolution, Earth and life history, structure and function in living systems. Students will complete investigative projects and activities designed to reinforce the principles of the scientific method. Students will be required to maintain a Life Science Folder which will contain notes, class assignments, lab work, and homework assignments. Multiple projects will be required throughout the school year.

### **Science 8**

Course # 22800

**Grade Level(s):** 8<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Year

**Prerequisite(s):** N/A

This course covers grade 8 California science standards on motion, forces, structure of matter, Earth in the solar system, reactions, chemistry of living things, periodic table, density, buoyancy, investigation and experimentation. Students will complete investigative projects and activities designed to reinforce the principles of the scientific method. Students will be required to maintain a Physical Science Notebook which will contain notes, class assignments, lab work, homework assignments, and personal reflections. Multiple projects will be required throughout the school year.

# **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

## Course Descriptions

### **Physical Education 6**

Course # 25600

**Grade Level(s):** 6<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Year

**Prerequisite(s):** N/A

This course meets California requirements for Physical Education. This course will emphasize the development of movement skills and movement knowledge, self-image, personal growth, and social evolution. Students will be introduced to and participate in a variety of individual, dual, and cooperative activities. Daily participation in exercises that improve flexibility, muscle strength, and cardiovascular endurance will emphasize the benefits of lifetime health and fitness. In addition, concepts in total personal fitness and wellness will be covered. State mandated physical fitness test will be administered throughout the year.

### **Physical Education 7**

Course # 25700

**Grade Level(s):** 7<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Year

**Prerequisite(s):** N/A

This course meets California requirements for Physical Education. This course will emphasize the development of movement skills and movement knowledge, self-image, personal growth, and social evolution. Students will be introduced to and participate in a variety of individual, dual, cooperative activities and team games. Daily participation in exercises that improve flexibility, muscle strength, and cardiovascular endurance will emphasize the benefits of lifetime health and fitness. In addition, concepts in total personal fitness and wellness will be covered. State mandated physical fitness test will be administered throughout the year.

### **Physical Education 8**

Course # 25800

**Grade Level(s):** 8<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Year

**Prerequisite(s):** N/A

This course meets California requirements for Physical Education. This course will emphasize the development of movement skills and movement knowledge, self-image, personal growth, and social evolution. Students will be introduced to and participate in a variety of individual, dual, cooperative activities and team sports. Daily participation in exercises that improve flexibility, muscle strength, and cardiovascular endurance will emphasize the benefits of lifetime health and fitness. In addition, concepts in total personal fitness and wellness will be covered. State mandated physical fitness test will be administered throughout the year.

## **Zero Period Course Options**

Zero Period meets Monday-Friday from 7:55-8:45 am

### **General Physical Education**

Course # 25810

**Grade Level(s):** 6-8

**Length of Course:** Year

**Prerequisite(s):** N/A

Taking this course will allow students the opportunity to have an additional elective or intervention class during the regular school day. This course meets California requirements for Physical Education. This course will emphasize the development of movement skills and movement knowledge, self-image, personal growth, and social evolution. Students will be introduced to and participate in a variety of individual, dual, cooperative activities and team sports. Daily participation in exercises that improve flexibility, muscle strength, and cardiovascular endurance will emphasize the benefits of lifetime health and fitness. In addition, concepts in total personal fitness and wellness will be covered. State mandated physical fitness test will be administered throughout the year.

### **Robotics**

Course # 26192

**Grade Level(s):** 7-8

**Length of Course:** Year

**Prerequisite(s):** Application and Interview required

Computer programming (also known as "coding") teaches you how to give instructions to a computer to solve a problem. We learn the "BASIC" (Beginner's All-purpose Symbolic and Instructional Code") language to tell the computer how to add things up, make decisions, or do a task many times in a row. Programming involves a lot of math because you have to write formulas for the computer to know what to. It is important that your math skills are sharp and that you have adequate understanding of Pre-Algebra to do well in this class. Students will participate in challenging robot projects including: assembling electronic components to make miniature robots, programming VEX robots, competing in class robot design challenges, and use creativity and teamwork to solve design problems.

### **Beginning Dance**

Course # 26116

**Grade Level:** 6-8

**Length of Course:** Semester or Year

**Prerequisite:** None

This course is designed to provide students with opportunities to explore dance as an art and physical exercise. Students will be introduced to a variety of styles of dance including jazz, lyrical, modern, ballet, musical theater, and multi-cultural. This course will also focus on the development of movement skills and movement knowledge, self-image and personal growth, and social evolution. This is not just for beginning dancers- all levels welcome.



## 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Electives

### Computers II

Course # 26144

**Grade Level(s):** 7<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Semester

**Prerequisite:** None

This course is designed to encourage students to become technologically literate, combining the practical application skills necessary to live and work in a changing technological society. Students will become proficient in formal keyboarding and use word processing and presentation applications such as Microsoft Word, PowerPoint and Prezi to master various techniques in properly creating, editing, and formatting essays and presentations. Students will continue to develop and refine search queries to get better research results. Students will continue to learn computer science through web based programs for coding and programming. Students will explore and discuss internet safety and digital citizenship. Using all of the steps in video production, students will create and produce commercials, PSAs, how to videos and/or music videos. Students become experts in camera techniques, equipment and video editing software.

### Art II

Course # 26136

**Grade Level(s):** 7<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Semester

**Prerequisite:** None

Students will learn about and explore the Elements of Art (line, shape, form, color, value and texture) and the Principles of Design (balance, movement, rhythm, emphasis, pattern and unity) using a variety of mediums. Students will explore visual art through experiences in drawing, painting, printmaking, collage and hand building ceramic techniques. Students will focus on improved craftsmanship and final product while learning about art history, criticism, and aesthetics. Note: Students have the option of taking Art II for a second time and can expect a similar, but more challenging experience.

### Intermediate Dance

Course # 26116

**Grade Level(s):** 7<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Semester

**Prerequisite:** None

This course is designed to provide students with opportunities to explore dance as an art and physical exercise. Students will be introduced to a variety of styles of dance including jazz, lyrical, modern, ballet, musical theater, and multi-cultural. This course will also focus on the development of movement skills and movement knowledge, self-image and personal growth, and social evolution

**Drama**

Course # 26134

**Grade Level(s):** 7<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup>**Length of Course:** Semester**Prerequisite:** None

Drama activities focus on orientation to stage, performance standards, novice live improvisation and entry-level understanding of character development as well as theatrical terminology.

**Year Long Electives****Beginning Band**

Course # 26104

**Grade Level(s):** 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>**Length of Course:** Year**Prerequisite(s):** N/A

This is the class for students who have never played a band instrument or have less than 9 months experience. Beginning Band is a student's elective course. Major focus points are posture, breathing, reading rhythms accurately, reading musical notation and developing listening skills. Other music for performances is passed out during the course of the year. Beginning Band performs mostly at school concerts. Only traditional band instruments are used in this course (flute, clarinets, alto saxophone, oboe, bassoon, trumpet, horn, trombone, baritone horn, euphonium, tuba, and concert percussion). Please see Mrs. Gordon in room B114 for more information.

**Cadet Band**

Course # 26105

**Grade Level(s):** 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>**Length of Course:** Year**Prerequisite(s):** One year of playing experience

This is the class for students who have a minimum of one year of playing experience. Cadet Band is a student's elective course. Due to the fact that the students do not get much time with the band instructor during the 5th grade year, this class starts off with review of the basics before getting further in to the text. Major focus points are posture, breathing, reading rhythms accurately, reading musical notation and developing listening skills. Other music for performances is passed out during the course of the year. Cadet Band performs mostly at school concerts. Only traditional band instruments are used in this course (flute, clarinets, saxophones, oboe, bassoon, trumpet, horn, trombone, baritone horn, euphonium, tuba, and concert percussion). Please see Mrs. Gordon in room B114 for more information.

### **Intermediate Band**

Course # 26106

**Grade Level(s):** 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Year

**Prerequisite(s):** 1-2 years of playing experience

This class is for students who have successfully completed one or two years of middle school band instruction. Intermediate Band is a student's elective course. This class picks up where Cadet Band left off, further exploring new rhythms, styles and developing the young musician. They are expected to retain concepts that were learned in Cadet Band and should not have to teach them again. Performances include school concerts and a local band festival. Only traditional band instruments are used in this course (flute, clarinets, saxophones, oboe, bassoon, trumpet, horn, trombone, baritone horn, euphonium, tuba, and concert percussion). Please see Mrs. Gordon in room B114 for more information.

### **Symphonic Band**

Course # 26107

**Grade Level(s):** 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Year

**Prerequisite(s):** Audition

This is the most advanced group at each site. Symphonic Band is a student's elective course. By this time, students have learned most of what they need to know to play in this band, so instruction moves away from the basic elements of music to concentrate on the more abstract concepts of musicianship. This is where students put all of the pieces of previously learned knowledge together to make great music. Students perform at school concerts, for the student body, community and at festivals. Only traditional band instruments are used in this course (flute, clarinets, saxophones, oboe, bassoon, trumpet, horn, trombone, baritone horn, euphonium, tuba, and concert percussion). Please see Mrs. Gordon in room B114 for more information.

### **Chorale**

Course # 26101

**Grade Level(s):** 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Year

**Prerequisite:** None

Chorale is open to any student who loves to sing and wants to develop their singing voice. The song literature will represent different musical styles and students will sing songs in unison, canons, rounds, partner songs, and songs in two-part harmony. Each student will read music notation in treble and bass clefs, read basic rhythm notation and demonstrate appropriate rehearsal discipline and performance skills. Students will be expected to spend additional hours beyond the regular class time, and students will be expected to attend all rehearsals and performances. Prior singing or music experience is not required. Please see Ms. Anderson in room B108 for more information.

**Concert/Chamber Choir**

Course # 26102/26103

**Grade Level(s):** 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>**Length of Course:** Year**Prerequisite:** Chorale or Audition

Concert Choir is open to students currently enrolled in grades 7th & 8th grade. The song literature will represent a variety of musical styles and develop the full vocal range. Students in this class are expected to read basic music notation in both treble and bass clefs, and be able to sing three or four part harmony songs with an extended mature vocal range. Each student will read music treble and bass clefs, read basic rhythm notation and demonstrate appropriate rehearsal discipline and performance skills. Students will be expected to spend additional hours beyond the regular class time and students will be expected to attend all rehearsals and performances. Please see Ms. Anderson in room B108 for more information.

**AVID 7**

Course # 26507

**Grade Level:** 7<sup>th</sup>**Length of Course:** Year**Prerequisite:** Application and Interview required.

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is an exceptional program that begins in middle school and is designed to help students accomplish their dream of successfully attending a four-year college or university. AVID provides students with the skills they need to be successful in middle school and high school and the tools, guidance and courses necessary for college acceptance.

The AVID program gives day-to-day mentoring help, creates a vision of college as attainable, and provides guidance in how to negotiate the college preparatory system. AVID places students with a strong group of peers and adults who share a commitment to academic achievement. Ultimately, AVID provides structure and a sense of family to support students as they take on the academic challenges necessary to achieve their goal of acceptance to a four-year college or university. *Please see Mrs. McLellan in room F206 for more information.*

**AVID 8**

Course # 26508

**Grade Level(s):** 8<sup>th</sup>**Length of Course:** Year**Prerequisite:** Application and Interview required.

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is an exceptional program that begins in middle school and is designed to help students accomplish their dream of successfully attending a four-year college or university. AVID provides students with the skills they need to be successful in middle school and high school and the tools, guidance and courses necessary for college acceptance.

The AVID program gives day-to-day mentoring help, creates a vision of college as attainable, and provides guidance in how to negotiate the college preparatory system. AVID places students with a strong group of peers and adults who share a commitment to academic achievement. Ultimately, AVID provides structure and a sense of family to support students as they take on the academic challenges necessary to achieve their goal of acceptance to a four-year college or university. *Please see Mrs. McLellan in room F206 for more information.*

## **Leadership Course Overview**

There are three Leadership Courses that are designed to teach the basic concepts of democratic government; leadership skills, group process, team building, time management, and project planning. It affords the student the opportunity for personal development in self-esteem, stress management, negotiation skills and marketing. From team building down to the personal development section in the curriculum, the student has a chance to comprehend and grow in preparation for his/her future as a prospective leader in their community.

### **Leadership: ASB**

Course # 26130

**Grade Level(s):** 7<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Year

**Prerequisite:** Application and Interview required.

The Associated Student Body (ASB) oversees school culture and ensuring the student body has clubs and activities that connect them to the school. ASB also holds events such as dances, rallies and spirit days that promote school spirit & culture.

### **Leadership: Renaissance**

Course # 26126

**Grade Level(s):** 6<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Year

**Prerequisite:** Application and interview required.

The Renaissance Crew is empowered to build programs that celebrate student and staff achievements and successes in all areas of what it means to be a Colt. The Ren Crew holds celebratory rallies, dances, lunch time events, Leading the Way (Student of the Quarter) Program, and many other celebratory activities that involve the McElhinney MS Community. The Ren Crew follows the 4Rs of Renaissance: Recognition, Reward, Reinforce, and Respect – as the driving force behind the DMMS Renaissance Program.

### **Leadership Concepts**

Course # 26125

**Grade Level(s):** 6<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Year

**Prerequisite:** Application and interview required

### **Yearbook**

Course # 26132

**Grade Level(s):** 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Year

**Prerequisite:** Completion of LA with a B or better. Application and Interview

This course is designed to teach the skills necessary to produce the school yearbook, from planning the coverage for the school year and designing a unifying theme for the book, to final publication and distribution. Through the study of and practice in gathering and analyzing information, development of technology skills, interviewing, note taking and photography, students will develop skill in layout and design techniques, writing and editing copy, headlines and picture captions. Through the setting of and meeting deadlines at each step of publication, students will improve work habits as they are responsible for all phases of yearbook publication. Finally, students will learn strategies of planning, marketing (ad sales) and distribution of the yearbook itself.

### **Video Production**

Course # 26147

**Grade Level(s):** 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Year

**Prerequisite:** Application and Interview

This course focuses on performing a variety of tasks from planning, writing original scripts, producing, shooting video, and editing footage. Students learn about the operation of video equipment, Mac computers and editing software. Students study and actively participate in the roles of a production crew. Students will develop technical knowledge of all aspects of video production including: producing, directing, camera-work, audio, lighting, and editing. Students will produce a published news broadcast (Mac News) that will be shown to students as well as posted on the school website. This course promotes student involvement and increases school spirit.

### **Advanced Dance**

Course # 26118

**Grade Level(s):** 7<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Year

**Prerequisite:** Application and audition with teacher

This course is designed to provide students with opportunities to explore dance as an art form and includes performance, choreography, and competition with acquired skills. Two classes are offered: Dancefinity and an advanced dance elective.

### **Advanced Drama/Theatre Arts**

Course # 26145

**Grade Level(s):** 7<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Year

**Prerequisite:** Application and audition with teacher

This course emphasizes preparation of one act and full length plays for classroom and public presentation. Individual scene study in combination with a study of period acting styles, stage direction and production techniques is included. Students in this class will and have opportunities to compete/ perform at festivals and competitions.

## **Guitar II**

Course # 7001

**Grade Level(s): 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Length of Course:** Semester

**Prerequisite:** Guitar or Prior Guitar Experience

This class is designed for the students with prior guitar experience. Students will advance their playing skills and knowledge of the guitar.

## **Music Appreciation (Musical Theater)**

Course # 26108

**Grade Level(s): 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>**

**Length of Course:** Semester

**Prerequisite:** N/A

Musical Theater is a true American born art form and it is AWESOME. Students will learn to sing, dance, and act; a real triple threat! Students will learn and perform pieces from a variety of shows and build a repertoire of Musical Theater knowledge to last a lifetime. This class is appropriate for all abilities and is a fantastic way to step into the art of music!

## **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Electives**

Students in grade 6 are automatically assigned two elective courses (one for each semester).

### **Graphic Design**

Course # 26142

**Grade Level:** 6<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Semester

**Prerequisite:** N/A

Graphic Design I is an exploratory class introducing students to the variety of careers and commercial applications in art. Projects and assignments build on the principles and elements of design learned in Art I. Projects will include illustration, packaging & logo design, typography, and layout design. Development of drawing skills will be ongoing. Students will begin studying the impact of images and symbols in past and present day society. The process of planning, researching, organizing, and executing individual and team projects will be introduced. Oral and written critiques will be ongoing. Students are expected to keep a portfolio and a notebook of projects and assignments.

### **Computers I**

Course # 26143

**Grade Level:** 6<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Semester

**Prerequisite:** N/A

This course is designed to expose students to emerging and traditional technologies. Students will be introduced to formal keyboarding and apply appropriate keyboarding techniques while typing in order to increase keying speed using a web based application. Students will use word processing with Microsoft Word and Office 365 to learn various techniques in properly creating, editing, and formatting essays and presentations. Students will develop and refine search queries to get better research results. Students are introduced to computer science through web based programs for coding and programming. Students will explore and discuss internet safety and digital citizenship. Students will be introduced to video production, utilizing teamwork, in order to create and produce their own production. Students will become knowledgeable in camera techniques, equipment and video editing software.

### **Art I**

Course # 26135

**Grade Level(s):** 6<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Semester

**Prerequisite:** N/A

Students will learn about and explore the Elements of Art (line, shape, form, color, value and texture) and the Principles of Design (balance, movement, rhythm, emphasis, pattern and unity) using a variety of mediums. Students will explore visual art through experiences in drawing, painting, printmaking, collage and hand building ceramic techniques. Students will focus on



improved craftsmanship and final product while learning about art history, criticism, and aesthetics. Note: Students have the option of taking Art I for a second time and can expect a similar, but more challenging experience.

**Exploratory Physical Education: Dance**

Course # 26700

**Grade Level:** 6<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Semester

**Prerequisite:** N/A

This course will emphasize the development of movement skills and movement knowledge, self-image, personal growth, and social evolution through the learning and practice of various modern dance routines and styles. Students will be introduced to and participate in a variety of individual, dual, cooperative activities. Daily participation in exercises that improve flexibility, muscle strength, and cardiovascular endurance will emphasize the benefits of lifetime health and fitness.

**Drama**

Course # 26134

**Grade Level:** 6<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Semester

**Prerequisite:** N/A

Drama activities focus on orientation to stage, performance standards, novice live improvisation and entry-level understanding of character development as well as theatrical terminology.

**Guitar**

Course # 7000

**Grade Level(s):** 6<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Semester

**Prerequisite:** N/A

This class is designed for the beginning guitar student. Students will learn to read music notation in treble clef on the guitar, and demonstrate knowledge of reading basic rhythm notation accurately. Also, they will learn correct posture and playing position and proper care and storage of the guitar.