Cesar Chavez Academy 8th Grade Elective Course Offerings

Group 1 Elective Course Descriptions (pick 1 from this group)

Band	Band is open to all students who want to learn a new instrument or continue developing their current instrument. Students will learn basic music theory concepts, how to read music, and develop proper tone and technique. Band students will also learn the art of performing and will participate in various performances at school, around the community, and at local amusement parks. The instruments used in band are: flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, tuba, and percussion. School instruments will be available for students to borrow, but those who own their own instrument or can rent one from their local music store will be guaranteed to play the instrument of their choice. Both beginning and advanced players are welcome!
Choir	Choir is open to all students who want to learn the voice and are not afraid to sing in front of others. Students will learn song interpretation, how to read music, and develop proper voice technique and ear training. Students will be exposed to various styles and genres of vocal music including traditional folk songs and popular music of today. Choir students will also learn the art of performing and will participate in various performances at school, around the community, and at local amusement parks. Both beginning and advanced singers are welcome!
Computer Science Discoveries	Computer Science Discoveries is an introductory computer science course that takes a wide lens on computer science by covering topics such as problem solving, programming, physical computing, user centered design, and data, while inspiring students as they build their own websites, apps, animations, games, and physical computing systems. In the spring, students use microcontrollers (Arduinos) to develop solutions that utilize the same hardware inputs and outputs that we see in many modern smart devices, and they get to see how a rough prototype can lead to a finished product. The unit concludes with a design challenge that asks students to use the microcontroller as the basis for an innovation of their own design, including the use of the fabrication lab's 3D printers, laser engravers, wood-working equipment, and CNC routers.

Group 2 Elective Course Descriptions (pick 1 from this group)

SFS: Fitness & Conditioning	Fitness & Conditioning is a class that will utilize various fitness techniques to help prepare you for your sports outside of school and moving on to high school.
Computer Application – Video Production	The class is part of the CTE Arts, Media, and Entertainment sector, and uses a video-production curriculum based on the Public Broadcasting Service approach. Students will produce video segments for consumption by the Cesar Chavez Academy community. Segments may include coverage of school events, instructional videos, animation, entertainment clips, drone footage, or interviews. Content will be distributed in a video blog format from a local WordPress web server. Students will be exposed to video editing, lighting, audio, video recording, animation (2D, 3D, and stop-motion), drone-based video, and web development.
AVID	AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) teaches skills and behaviors for academic success and provides intensive support with tutorials and strong student/teacher relationships. AVID develops personal achievement gained through hard work and determination. For one period a day, students receive the additional academic, social, and emotional support that will help them succeed in their school's most rigorous courses. AVID targets students in the academic middle, who have the desire to go to college and the willingness to work hard. These are students who are capable but are often falling short of their potential. Students that enroll in AVID should register for at least one honors class.
Leadership	Leadership, an opportunity to take on leadership roles, learn about respected leaders, examine the qualities of leadership, build a strong school community, and even run for an elected office. Students should be responsible, hardworking, collaborative, creative, and a role model on campus throughout the day. A 3.0 minimum G.P.A is required.
SFS: Yearbook	Students will learn both print and video media production skills, including the basics of journalism, photography, videography, computer graphics, and yearbook design.
PLTW Flight & Space	The exciting world of aerospace comes alive through the Flight and Space (FS) unit. Students become engineers as they design, prototype, and test models to learn about the science of flight and what it takes to travel and live in space. They solve real-world aviation and space challenges and plan a mission to Mars.
SFS: Drama	This is a new class to Chavez this year! In this class students will be introduced to theatrical arts. The course will emphasize creativity, collaboration, and perseverance. Prepare to have fun all while expressing yourself through theatrical arts.

Academic Support: Students will be enrolled automatically in these classes based on district criteria and/or IEP.

ELD 1,2,3	All English Learner students with an ELPAC level 1, 2 or 3 will be automatically enrolled in English Language Development (ELD). Students will receive intensive English instruction in reading, writing, speaking & listening.
Math Academy	Students identified by the district as needing more support will automatically be enrolled in Math Academy. Math Academy is for students identified as needing additional support and extended learning time in math concepts.
Read 180	Students identified by the district or IEP as needing more support will automatically be enrolled in Read 180. Read 180 is for students identified as needing intensive support and extended learning time in reading comprehension.
Math 180	Students identified by the district or IEP as needing more support will automatically be enrolled in Math 180. Math 180 will offer intensive support and extended learning time in mathematical concepts and number sense.