Utt Middle School
7th & 8th Grade Elective Course Descriptions

Elective courses are offered at each school dependent upon student pre-registration sign-up, facilities, and staffing. Every effort is made to honor individual student requests for elective classes; however, scheduling conflicts or limited enrollment may make it necessary to modify requests.

Humanities Pathway Courses

PAL Leadership - Peer Assistance Leader (3601)

- Students who serve as PAL leaders support in our moderate/severe Autism special education classes. PAL leaders assist in classroom activities, serve as peer models, and engage in learning activities with other students. Course focus is students helping students.

Spanish

(The following classes are for 8th grade only.)

- **Spanish 1B (3705)** - In the second year of world language instruction, students increase vocabulary and grammar skills with an emphasis on developing conversation skills. With teacher recommendation, students who complete the middle school two-year program with a grade of B- or better may enroll in the second year of foreign language at the high school. **Students must have a grade or B- or better in Spanish 1A to move into Spanish 1B.*
- **Spanish 1 (1414) -** Students in this course will have acquired a basic vocabulary of approximately 1,000 words. Most will be able to interact comfortably in situations that require the use of basic information. They will be able to introduce themselves, family members or friends, talk about likes and dislikes, describe clothing (colors), appearance, mood, personality; make statements about dates, weather, seasonal activities, etc. They will be able to discuss other subjects recognizing similar/distinct attitudes between their own culture and the cultures of the Hispanic world.
- **Spanish for Native Speakers 1 (3700)** - This course is designed for students who speak Spanish fluently and want to improve their reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills in Spanish. Emphasis is placed on composition, grammar, spelling, and reading comprehension. Students are introduced to the literature and culture of the Spanish-speaking world. Students who select this course must pass a written and speaking assessment to enroll in this course.

CTE (Career & Technical Education) Pathway Courses

Computer Applications (3002)

- Computer Applications is an exploration into the fundamentals of Video Production, Graphic Design, Digital Photography, Scratch Computer Programming, Animation, Game programming, Android App development, Python Programming, and all things computer. Students will be exposed to an array of Digital Media production elements and gain a valuable skill set for their future. Students focus on Video Production and Scratch.

Introduction to Graphic Design (3013)

- This course introduces students to graphic design as a form of visual communication utilizing type, imagery, form, and color. The design process is explored with projects that involve two dimensions, visual identity and communication, thematic structure and hierarchy, creative problem solving, critical thinking, and basic design practice of critique, discussions, and teamwork. Within the course, students will also explore future careers and professions that utilize graphic design disciplines such as advertisement, web design, illustration, broadcast design, photography, and game design.

STEM - Design & Modeling (3103)

- An elective course using the Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Design and Modeling curriculum to introduce students to Autodesk Inventor 3D modeling software and 3D printing. In this course, students begin to recognize the value of an engineering notebook to document and capture their ideas. They are introduced to and use the design process to solve problems and compete in engineering project design challenges.

STEM - Automation & Robotics (3101)

- An elective course developed using the Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Automation and Robotics curriculum to introduce students to VEX robotics systems and programming using Robot C. Students trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics. They learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer,

gear ratios, machine automation and computer control systems. Students use a robust robotics platform to design, build and program a solution to solve an existing problem.

Video Production & Career Exploration (2952)
- Two semesters of graphic design, video production & career exploration. This course exposes students to forms of visual communication utilizing type, imagery, form, and color, photography, real-world application, filming, and editing. From conceptual ideas to final production, students work individually and collaboratively to create, draft, conference, revise, edit, and publish. Students will apply video skills to real-life, real-world jobs and businesses. This class will take a hands-on approach to provide students the opportunity to explore future careers that utilize graphic design disciplines such as advertisement, web design, illustration, broadcast design, photography, and game design. Learn the digital side of filmmaking and digital production, but also explore the creative side of filmmaking (script and film analysis, working with actors, storyboarding, scriptwriting). This is the intermediate-level course for the Middle School Foundation Academy (MSFA) on the Career Technical Education (CTE) pathway for video and media arts.

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Visual and Performing Arts Pathway Courses
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Art (3300)
- The Art course focuses on the elements of art and principles of design through a variety of media with an emphasis on individual expression.

Band - Beginning (3304)
- Beginning Band includes woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments, and is designed for students who would like to play an instrument or who wish to extend their instrument playing skills. Public performances are scheduled. Students are grouped according to skill, based on teacher evaluation.

Band - Advanced (3320)
- Band Advanced includes woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments, and is designed for students who have musical experience and who wish to expand their skills. Public performances are scheduled, as well as field trips and fun events! Students are grouped according to skill, based on teacher evaluation.

Choir (3308)
- Falcon Choir introduces students to the reading and singing of music for pleasure and performance. Sing everything from Opera to Pop. Students will explore melody, harmony, and chord structures to develop singing and listening skills. Public performances are scheduled, as well as field trips and fun events!

Drama (3302)
- The Drama course develops individual and group presentation skills. it may include creative dramatics, pantomime, puppetry, skits, one-act plays productions, improvisation, and monologues.

Orchestra - Beginning (3317)
- Beginning Orchestra includes the orchestral string instruments (violin, viola, cello, and bass) and is designed for students who would like to play an instrument or who wish to extend their instrument playing skills. Public performances are scheduled. Students are grouped according to skill, based on teacher evaluation.

Orchestra - Advanced (3310)
- Advanced Orchestra [Intermediate/Chamber] includes the orchestral string instruments (violin, viola, cello, and bass) and is designed for students who have musical experience and who wish to expand their skills. Public performances are scheduled, as well as field trips and fun events! Students are grouped according to skill, based on teacher evaluation.

TEACHER RECOMMENDATION & APPLICATION REQUIRED

The below classes are application-only courses. Applications for all three listed courses are due prior to Spring Break. Students will be notified of their admittance into these courses after course requests are complete. Even if you plan to apply for one of the courses listed below, please be sure to select **FOUR additional elective requests** from the list above.

AVID
Competition Robotics
Leadership/ASB
Yearbook