

# Starkey Ranch 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Course Descriptions

## Semester Courses

**M/J Exploring 2D Art (0101005Z)** Students investigate a wide range of media and techniques, from both an historical and contemporary perspective, as they engage in the art-making processes of creating two-dimensional works, which may include drawing, painting, printmaking, and/or collage. Student artists reflect on their own artwork and that of others through critical analysis to achieve artistic goals related to craftsmanship, technique, and application of 21st-century skills. Opportunities are provided for creative decision-making in the context of the structural elements of art and the organizational principles of design. This course incorporates hands-on activities and consumption of art materials.

**M/J Exploring 3D Art (01010035Z)** Students learn to translate their two-dimensional skills into three-dimensional forms through the exploration of natural, abstract, and synthetic sculptural forms using materials that may include, but are not limited to, clay, plaster, and mixed media for creative expression. These student artists develop perceptual, creative, technical, and problem-solving skills in a sculptural context as they design and produce works of art with personal expression. Students in M/J Exploring Three-Dimensional Art focus on use of safety procedures for process, media, and techniques. This course incorporates hands-on activities and consumption of art materials.

**M/J Intro. to Dance Techniques (0300100Z)** Students develop dance technique and movement vocabulary in one or more dance forms. In the process, dancers demonstrate use of class and performance etiquette, analytical and problem-solving skills, and studio practices in a safe dance environment. Students may be required to attend and/or participate in rehearsals and performances outside of the school day to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom. Students in this class may need to obtain (e.g., borrow, purchase) appropriate footwear and/or dance attire from an outside source.

**M/J Basic Theatre (0400035Z)** Students learn the basics of theatre arts by exploring a character through such activities as pantomime, improvisation and effective speaking using articulation, projection and breathing. Students also explore elements of technical theatre by exploring the use of such elements as costumes, props and scenery. Students practice writing for the theatre and explore various theatre roles and functions. Public performances may serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. Students may be required to attend and/or participate in rehearsals and performances outside of the school day to support, extend and assess learning in the classroom.

**M/J Computer Science Discoveries 1 or 2 (0200000Z)** Students learn best when they are intrinsically motivated. This course prioritizes learning experiences that are active, relevant to students' lives, and provide students authentic choice. Students are encouraged to be curious, solve personally relevant problems and to express themselves through creation. Learning is an inherently social activity, so the course is designed to interweave lessons with discussions, presentations, peer feedback, and shared reflections. As students proceed through the pathway, the structures increasingly shift responsibility to students to formulate their own questions, develop their own solutions, and critique their work. Students will have opportunities to work with 3-D printers, learn to code, explore robotics and visual design. Students can earn CAPE digital tool certifications.

**\*H/S Peers as Partners in Learning (1400340Z)** This course is designed to provide reciprocal academic and social benefits to students with disabilities and their peers without disabilities. Students enrolled in this course will learn and apply knowledge and skilled practices in the areas of academic engagement, communication, social barriers, leadership, problem solving, and other disability-related topics such as historical perspectives, inclusion, Universal Design for Learning, person-first language, presumed competence, social justice for minority populations, and media representation of diverse people. **\*Must complete application for consideration. Application is on our school website and available in our front office\***

**M/J Journalism 1 (1006000Z)** The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop fundamental skills in the production of journalism across print, multimedia, web, and broadcast/radio platforms and to become aware of journalism history, careers, ethics use, and management techniques related to the production of journalistic media. Some activities may be required outside of the school day. This course will be working to develop and write our school yearbook.

**M/J Speech and Debate (1007025Z)** The purpose of this course is to develop students' beginning awareness, understanding, and application of language arts as it applies to oral communication concepts and strategies in a variety of given settings. Students will engage in learning and practicing a variety of speech forms. They will also learn and demonstrate appropriate formal and informal public speaking techniques. They will develop research and writing skills to support their selected point of view. Our students will be using digital resources to produce their thoughts and engage in 21<sup>st</sup> century presentation techniques.

**\*M/J Emerging Leaders (2104040Z)** This course provides an introduction to service-learning and civic responsibility. Academic, personal, and career skills needed for effective service-learning project implementation will be taught and applied through structured service projects that meet real school or community needs. Students will actively participate in meaningful service-learning experiences of at least 20 hours in duration. **\*Application required for consideration\***

**M/J Creative Writing (1009025Z)** The purpose of this course is to enable students to learn and use writing and language skills for creative expression in a variety of literary forms. Emphasis will be on development of a personal writing style. Writing for varied purposes and in varied genres, including, personal and dramatic narratives, various poetic forms, plays and multimedia productions, multi-genre and creative nonfiction selections, digital writing platforms.

## Yearlong Courses

**M/J Dance 1 (0300000Z) & Dance 2 (300010Z)** Students develop dance technique and movement vocabulary in two or more dance forms. In the process, dancers demonstrate use of class and performance etiquette, analytical and problem-solving skills, and studio practices in a safe dance environment. Students may be required to attend and/or participate in rehearsals and performances outside the school day to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom. Students in this class may need to obtain (e.g., borrow, purchase) appropriate footwear and/or dance attire from an outside source. **\*Prerequisite for M/J Dance 2 is completion of M/J Dance 1 in previous school year\***

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## **M/J Musical Theatre 1 (0400200Z) & Musical Theatre 2**

**(0400205Z)** Student's coursework focuses on, but is not limited to, basic acting, basic vocal performance, basic dance/movement, non-dance movement, and staging, which transfer readily to musical theatre literature. Students will survey the current trends in musical theatre by studying representative literature. Students will explore the unique staging and technical demands of musicals in contrast to non-musical plays. Public performances may serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. Students may be required to attend and/or participate in rehearsals and performances outside the school day to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom. **\*Prerequisite for M/J Musical Theatre 2 is completion of M/J Musical Theatre 1 in previous school year\***

**M/J Orchestra 1 (1302040Z) & Orchestra 2 (1202050Z)** Students who have little or no experience on violin, viola, cello, bass, or harp explore high-quality music literature written or transcribed for string orchestra. Study includes the development of foundational instrumental ensemble techniques, performance skills, music literacy, and aesthetic awareness. Public performances may serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. Students may be required to attend and/or participate in rehearsals and performances outside the school day to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom. This course may also require students to obtain a musical instrument. **\*Prerequisite for M/J Orchestra 2 is completion of M/J Orchestra 1 in previous school year\***

## **M/J Instrumental Ensemble 1 (1302110Z) & Instrumental Ensemble 2 (1302120Z)**

**\*This is our STEEL DRUMS class\*** Students with little or no instrumental ensemble experience develop musicianship and performance skills as they study, rehearse, and perform high-quality ensemble literature in diverse styles. Public performances may serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. Students may be required to attend and/or participate in rehearsals and performances outside the school day to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom. This course may also require students to obtain a musical instrument (e.g., borrow, rent, purchase) from an outside source. **\*Prerequisite for M/J Instrumental Ensemble 2 is completion of M/J Instrumental Ensemble 1 in previous school year\***

**H/S Spanish 1 (0708340Z)** Spanish 1 introduces students to the target language and its culture. The student will develop communicative skills in all 3 modes of communication and cross-cultural understanding. Emphasis is placed on proficient communication in the language. An introduction to reading and writing is also included as well as culture, connections, comparisons, and communities. **\*Must have FSA ELA score of 3 or higher in previous school year to be admitted to course\***

**H/S Spanish 2 (0708350Z)** Spanish 2 reinforces the fundamental skills acquired by the students in Spanish 1. The course develops increased listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills as well as cultural awareness. Specific content to be covered is a continuation of listening and oral skills acquired in Spanish 1. Reading and writing receive more emphasis, while oral communication remains the primary objective. The cultural survey of the target language-speaking people is continued. **\*Prerequisite for Spanish 2 is completion of Spanish 1 in previous school year\***

**H/S Computer Science Discoveries (0200305Z)** This course prioritizes learning experiences that are active, relevant to students' lives, and provide students authentic choice. Students are encouraged to be curious, solve personally relevant problems and to express themselves through creation. Learning is an inherently social activity, so the course is designed to interweave lessons with discussions, presentations, peer

feedback, and shared reflections. As students proceed through the pathway, the structures increasingly shift responsibility to students to formulate their own questions, develop their own solutions, and critique their work. This course gives students the opportunity to earn an industry certification. **\*Prerequisite for this high school level computer course is completion of a M/J Computer Science Discoveries 1 or 2 course in the previous school year\***

## **M/J Studio Art 1 (3-Dimensional) (0101330Z)**

Students explore how space, mass, balance, and form combine to create aesthetic forms or utilitarian products and structures. Instruction may include, but is not limited to, content in green or industrial design, sculpture, ceramics, or building arts. Media may include, but are not limited to, clay, wood, plaster, and paper maché with consideration of the workability, durability, cost, and toxicity of the media used. Student artists consider the relationship of scale (i.e., hand-held, human, monumental) through the use of positive and negative space or voids, volume, visual weight, and gravity to create low/high relief or freestanding structures for personal intentions or public places. They explore sharp and diminishing detail, size, position, overlapping, visual pattern, texture, implied line, space, and plasticity, reflecting craftsmanship and quality in the surface and structural qualities of the completed art forms. Students in the 3-D art studio focus on use of safety procedures for process, media, and techniques. Student artists use an art criticism process to evaluate, explain, and measure artistic growth in personal or group works. This course incorporates hands-on activities and consumption of art materials. **\*Students who select year-long M/J Studio Art 1 may not take the 2D or 3D semester art classes offered\***

## **H/S Leadership Skills Development (2400300Z)**

The purpose of this course is to teach leadership skills, parliamentary procedure, problem solving, decision making, communication skills, group dynamics, time and stress management, public speaking, human relations, public relations, team building, and other group processes. **\*Prerequisite for Leadership Skills Development is completion of M/J Emerging Leaders in previous school year\* Application is required**

## **H/S Dance & Choreography Performance 1 (0300380Z)**

Students explore key concepts of dance making with a focus on improvisation, composition, and choreographic processes and principles. Students study the works and creative techniques of highly respected choreographers in varied performance genres. They also examine the social, political, and cultural forces that influenced significant or exemplary works, and consider the innovations that came out of them. Public performances may serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. Students may be required to attend and/or participate in rehearsals and performances outside the school day to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom. Students in this class may need to obtain (e.g., borrow, purchase) appropriate footwear and/or dance attire from an outside source.

# Required Courses

## Yearlong

### **M/J Language Arts 3, Advanced (1001080Z)**

The purpose of this course is to provide grade 8 students, using texts of appropriate complexity, integrated language arts study in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language for college and career preparation and readiness.

### **M/J World History, Advanced (2109020Z)**

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The primary content for the course pertains to the principles, functions, and organization of government; the origins of the American political system; the roles, rights, responsibilities of United States citizens; and methods of active participation in our political system. The course is embedded with strong geographic and economic components to support civic education instruction.

## **M/J Comprehensive Science 3, Advanced (2002110Z)**

This course utilizes scientific texts, hands-on learning through laboratory work and inquiry to build knowledge of science concepts in grade 7. Students engage in science inquiry practices that include but are not limited to: design and engineering, critical thinking and mathematical computation.

*Mathematics placement will be determined based on student's FSA scores, NWEA assessment data and success with prior mathematics courses.*

## **Math Courses for 8<sup>th</sup> Graders**

### **M/J Grade 8 Pre-Algebra (1205070Z)**

#### **H/S Algebra 1 Honors (1200320Z)**

*Students placed in Algebra 1 Honors must have successfully completed 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Accelerated Mathematics in the previous school year.*

#### **H/S Geometry Honors (1206320Z)**

*Students placed into Geometry Honors must have successfully completed Algebra 1 Honors in the previous school year.*

## Semester

### **M/J Comprehensive Physical Education Grades 7/8 (1508070Z)**

This course is designed for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and is intended to be 18 weeks in length. The purpose of this course is to build on previously acquired knowledge, skills, and values necessary for the implementation and maintenance of a physically active lifestyle. The course content provides exposure to a variety of movement opportunities and experiences which include, but is not limited to: Outdoor Pursuits/Aquatics, Individual/Dual Sports and Alternative/Extreme Sports. The integration of fitness concepts throughout the content is critical to student success in this course and in the development of a healthy and physically active lifestyle. ***\*In order for your child to be waived out of this course, please read the waiver on your child's course card. A parent signature is required to opt-out of P.E. and take a different elective\****