

Mill Creek Academy
Rising 8th grade Electives and Course Information
2022-2023



Core Courses:

Students are automatically placed in appropriate core courses (Standard, Advanced and Gifted) based on a review of previous grades, standardized testing and in some cases, teacher and guidance recommendations, in accordance with the district's pupil progression plan. Gifted and ESE services are also provided to students who are appropriately staffed in those programs. *Verification will be opened on HAC at the end of April. For any change request, please use the link provided on the MCA website and fill out the form provided.*

Elective Courses: Your child will have (3) non-core courses.

Elective options may change based on availability and student interest. Please see course descriptions below:

Physical Education(year-long required class)

All 8th grade students are enrolled in Phys. Education. Should a student choose 3 full year non-core electives, a waiver MUST be submitted prior to the start of school. Waivers are available on the District website.

Intermediate Spanish(year) – Must have completed Beginning Spanish

Band II (year) – Students must have already taken Band prior to 8th grade

Band III (year) – Students must have already taken Band prior to 8th grade

Instrumental Band (Jazz Band) (year) - must be recommended by Band Director

Visual Art 2/Visual Art 3 (year)

Exploring Technology/Exploring Robotics Technology (1 year)

*****Application Process Electives: All applications are due no later than February 28th, 2022. This course has a limited size.**

Internship and Career Research(semester) /PE (semester): These two courses go together and will not be separated.

It may not be possible to place students in their chosen electives due to constraints in the master schedule, adjusting for class size, course availability and/or enrollment in specialized courses (i.e., Intensive Reading and/or specialized instruction, if offered). We will most likely NOT be able to accommodate changes once the master schedule has been created. Once the school master schedule is finalized, changes in electives are addressed by need and availability. Every effort will be made to honor requests. **Please keep an open mind when choosing electives because adjustments may cause your child to be enrolled in a course other than the one he/she chose.**

Students receiving a level 1 or 2 on the FSA Reading and/or Math could be placed in an Intensive Reading/Math course in lieu of a non-core course(s). This would be a yearlong course.

Title: Physical Education (Individual/Dual Sports/Comprehensive PE) - This course is designed for 8th grade students. 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. Additionally, students will identify basic rules, explain basic offensive and defensive strategies, identify the critical elements for successful performance in a variety of sport skills or physical activities, and describe how movement skills and strategies learned in one physical activity can be transferred and used in other individual/dual sports.

Title: Intermediate Spanish (Year) - M/J Spanish Intermediate is a continuation of M/J Beginning Spanish. Students will expand their knowledge of the language and its culture. Students will be able to engage in basic listening and speaking activities. Basic skills in reading and writing, and culture, connections, comparisons, and communities are included in this **one-year** course.

Title: Band II or Band III (Year) - Students with previous band experience expand on their instrumental technique, music literacy, and aesthetic response through rehearsal, performance, and study of a variety of intermediate-level, high-quality band literature. Instrumentalists extend their knowledge of music notation and theory, sound production, and personal and group rehearsal strategies. 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. Cost of instrument (e.g., borrow, rent, purchase) from an outside source and "fair play" fees, as well as fees associated with field trips, should be considered when choosing this elective.

Title: Instrumental Band (Jazz Band)- Students with previous instrumental ensemble experience continue to build musicianship and performance skills through the study, rehearsal, and performance of high-quality ensemble literature in a variety of styles. Student musicians learn to self-assess and collaborate as they study relevant musical styles and time periods.

Title: Percussion Ensemble (Year) - Percussion Ensemble is a course specifically designed for percussionists to explore the plethora of playing techniques and instruments in the percussion family. The class will provide students the opportunity to perform music from a wide range of styles.

Title: Visual Arts 2/Visual Arts 3 – Students are introduced to the rigor and routine of the art production process including: planning, producing, and reflecting on art. With an emphasis on studio arts, students explore a wide range of 2D and 3D media, skills, and techniques, as related to contemporary and historical art perspectives. Projects may include but are not limited to: drawing, painting, printmaking, collage, mixed media, pottery, and sculpture.

Title: Exploring Technology (1 Semester) in addition to Exploring Robotics Technology (1 Semester) for a year-long course covering – Students will learn a foundation of knowledge and technically oriented experiences in the study of the applications of technology and its effect upon our lives and the choosing of an occupation. The content and activities will also include the study of safety, and leadership skills. The content includes introductory studies in areas of technology which introduce students to the development of abilities to calculate, make important observations, analyze and solve problems using manipulative skills while working cooperatively with others in team activities.

This program focuses on transferable skills and stresses understanding and demonstration of the technological tools, machines, instruments, materials, processes and systems in business and industry. The emphasis of this program is on developing awareness of future needs, developing technological competence, confidence and awareness through interaction with technologies, developing awareness of other career programs, interacting with business, industry and community organizations, applying basic skills in learning activities, and developing self-awareness of individual abilities, needs and interests. The courses are intended to help students develop their problem-solving skills and creativity while learning about technology and careers in the Engineering & Technology Education career cluster. Students will learn to gather data through research and testing, as well as to document their results and processes.

Title: Internship – students will have the opportunity to intern in a K – 3 Classroom, Front Office, Elementary Resource Classroom OR Media Center. Students will gain skills in career development as it pertains to daily tasks in the assigned area.

**** Consistent with all course requests, if you would like your child to take an online course at Mill Creek Academy during the school day, the course MUST be requested by filling out the link provided on the MCA Website prior to the registration deadline. We will NOT drop or change any course (core course or elective) after the registration period ends () without going through an administrative review. An online course taken during the school day does not have on-campus teacher support, only adult supervision. The virtual teacher is not on campus. **Please contact our middle school counselor, Mrs. Crystal Dean, if you would like to pursue online courses (Crystal.Dean@stjohns.k12.fl.us)****

BLENDDED (with GIFTED)

Some students may be placed, or “blended”, into gifted courses (even though they are not identified as gifted) based on standardized test scores, grades and /or teacher recommendations. The decision to be “blended” is made by administration and guidance. This option varies from year to year based upon performance and availability.