

STUDENT REGISTRATION HANDBOOK



2024-2025

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Dear Students and Parents,

On behalf of the faculty of Kalispell Middle School, I welcome you to the registration process for the 2024-2025 school year. This process reflects our school's interest in a partnership among the school, staff, parents, and students in selecting the best learning opportunities to help students reach their full potential.

The Kalispell Middle School Online Registration Catalog gives you important information about our curriculum. The goal of our instructional program is to promote learning and to help students prepare for future challenges. This goal is accomplished through a series of core (required) and encore (elective) courses throughout a student's three-year experience in middle school.

The curriculum described in this catalog is designed to meet the district's and the state's standards for middle school students. In addition, it is designed to provide challenges for all students to do their best. Teachers are organized into teams and work together to develop units of instruction that help students understand how the various subjects relate to each other. This helps middle school students see the connections to real world applications. Additionally, we emphasize field trips and other off-campus experiences as a way of exposing students to careers related to various subjects.

After course registrations are completed, we begin the process of scheduling students into classes, with this process culminating at the end of the summer when we will email class schedules to each student. As you know, schedules will not be emailed to students whose immunization records are not up to date. If you have any questions at any time during the process, you should not hesitate to contact us at school. Our Guidance Counselors are available to students and parents if there are questions about the registration process, the courses taught or any special needs that the student may have.

We at Kalispell Middle School are committed to providing a high-quality educational experience for all students. I am glad that you are part of our school, and I invite you to review this catalog carefully as you begin the process of planning your educational program for next year.

Sincerely,

Tryg Johnson
Principal
Kalispell Middle School

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FORWARD

This registration booklet has been prepared to provide students and parents with information about course registration during the next school year at Kalispell Middle School. Guidelines are presented to give assistance in arriving at a class schedule that is in line with the student's abilities and interests.

DIRECTIONS FOR COMPLETING REGISTRATION FORM

1. Consult with your parents and teachers before making your final decision.
2. Carefully follow the directions that are in this handbook. Once a course is chosen, ***there will be NO changes unless there has been a mechanical error or omission in your schedule.***
3. Note that Math and Reading Enrichment classes require teacher signatures.
4. Parent signature is required on the completed registration form.
5. All students **must fill out the alternate section** of the registration sheet. We will do our best to grant student requests. However, if an Encore course is full, students will be placed in any alternate selection with openings.



TEAMING



KMS is organized by teaming for all three grade levels, 6th, 7th and 8th. Teaming consists of a core group of teachers sharing the same group of students. This allows for flexibility and variety in creating cross curricular instruction and will provide a smaller learning environment within KMS.

The sixth-grade teams consist of four core teachers with the same group of students. The following core areas will be taught within each of the teams: English Language Arts, Reading, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. All three teams share Health Enhancement teachers.

The seventh and eighth grade levels are divided into three teams. Each team consists of five core teachers and average between 100 - 125 students. The following core areas are taught within each of the teams: English Language Arts, Health Enhancement, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies.



SPECIAL SERVICES

Kalispell Middle School offers a variety of Special Education classes for those students identified and qualified with an Individual Education Plan (IEP). Services for students with an IEP are available in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. The continuum of services includes enrollment in life skills, social-emotional and behavioral programming, resource, and collaborative classes. Students with an IEP may also qualify for and receive related services such as speech, occupational, and physical therapies as directed in the IEP. An Adaptive PE class is offered for students who qualify for this service.

6TH GRADE REQUIRED COURSES

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Sixth grade English Language Arts builds on skills taught in earlier grades. Following the Montana Content Standards, areas of emphasis include reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language. Students will work on strengthening narrative, explanatory and argumentative writing through planning, revising, and editing. In addition, grammar and sentence structure will be emphasized. Students will use the print and electronic resources of the library and writing center to develop their research skills. Students will also develop and present demonstrative and persuasive speeches.

- **READING:** All students receive differentiated reading instruction in literature and informational text. Several instructional components are used to teach skills, strategies and standards including small group, whole group, and individual instruction. Students utilize textbooks, instructional magazines, classroom, and individually selected novels throughout the year.
- **READING ENRICHMENT:** Reading Enrichment is a class designed for students to improve their success and efficiency in reading and specifically targets students who are novice and nearing proficient in reading as identified by district reading assessments, teacher recommendations, and further individual assessments. Specific and tailored reading skill instruction is combined with the Social Studies content as outlined in the Montana State Standards and Benchmarks for each grade level. The small group Reading Enrichment classes are designed to improve reading skills and reading strategy use in order to become skilled, independent and efficient readers. The classes are taught by two Reading Enrichment teachers and two Reading Enrichment Paraprofessionals.

SCIENCE

Sixth grade science is the study of Earth Science. The focus is on the ability to conduct, evaluate and communicate scientific investigations. These skills will be practiced while studying the following scientific concepts: Earth's internal structure, Earth's constructive and destructive processes, rocks and minerals, weather, and astronomy.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Sixth grade Social Studies focuses on the study of ancient civilizations, including Mesopotamia, Egypt, China, Rome, and Greece. Students will gain an understanding of how early humans developed the first civilizations through an investigation of their geography, history, economy, culture, government, and technology.

MATHEMATICS

Placement in 6th grade math will be based on:

- District Test Scores
- Teacher Recommendation
- Students will be given a placement exam at KMS in the first week of school, and class placement may be changed based upon student level of achievement on this test and District tests.

Each course follows the Common Core State Standards for mathematics that consist of two types of standards – Mathematical Practice and Mathematical Content. The Standards for Mathematical Content in grades 6-8 are organized under domains: The Number System, Ratios and Proportional Relationships, Functions, Expressions and Equations, Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. All courses focus on problem solving and real-world application.

- **6 MATH ACCELERATED:** This course differs from the standard 6th grade course in that it contains content from 7th grade. While coherence is retained, in that it logically builds from the 5th grade, the additional content demands a faster pace for instruction and learning. The accelerated program is designed for those students who can and have shown an ability to dig deeper into mathematics and problem solving at a faster pace. These students have proficient, if not advanced work ethic, and need not be prompted to complete work, or show more work in order to demonstrate a deeper understanding. Student placement is based on standardized assessment data, classroom assessment data, attendance, and daily work ethic.
- **6 MATH:** In Grade 6, instructional time will focus on four critical areas: (1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; (2) completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; (3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; and (4) developing understanding of statistical thinking.

HEALTH ENHANCEMENT

The Health Enhancement Department is dedicated to providing the opportunity for students to establish healthy lifestyle patterns. The goal of the Health Enhancement course is to provide students with the necessary skills and knowledge needed to make healthy decisions for their physical, social, and emotional health. Health Enhancement is a combination of academic and physical education that takes place in both the classroom and a physical activity environment.

Students will need appropriate clothing for physical education. This includes gym shoes, socks and a KMS PE uniform (shorts and shirt) which is purchased at the school for \$20.00. We also may have gently used PE uniforms for sale at a reduced price (\$5.00).

KMS Health Enhancement classes provide instruction on human sexuality based on the Montana Health Enhancement Content Standards. A parent, guardian, or other person who is responsible for the care of a child may opt out of their child's participation in human sexuality instruction. This includes instruction delivered by district staff or guests invited at the request of the district during class, at an assembly, or at an organized school function. Please contact your student's Health Enhancement teacher if you would like to opt out of human sexuality education.

6TH GRADE YEAR LONG ENCORE MUSIC COURSES

6th GRADE MUSIC COURSES

Kalispell Middle School offers three options for performance music: Band, Choir, and Orchestra. These courses explore the fundamentals and technical skills involved in playing a musical instrument or singing in a group. Students wishing to be a part of the middle school music program are strongly encouraged to begin in 6th grade.

- **BAND 6:** Students are taught the basic skills of playing brass, woodwind or percussion instruments and music reading. No previous experience is necessary for entry into this band. Students and parents will be interviewed by music teachers the prior spring and placed on instruments that provide the best opportunity for individual success, and to balance the instrumentation of the band program. Every effort will be made to honor the instrument request of the student. A very limited number of school instruments are available, such as French Horn, Baritone, and Tuba. Other instruments must be provided by the student and can be rented or purchased through reputable local dealers. **To ensure your child's success, please wait to obtain an instrument until our KMS rental night in early September. Many parents who buy or rent an instrument early are stuck with equipment that is of inferior quality. If you have questions, please call Mr. Handford at 751-3883.**
- **CHOIR 6:** Choir is for students who want a positive experience learning basic music reading skills and enjoying a sense of belonging to a singing group. Its unique structure is designed to serve the motivated student who has little or no music experience or background. The 6th grade choir students will perform in four evening performances and take at least one field trip to perform in the community.
- **ORCHESTRA 6:** Sixth grade Orchestra provides the opportunity for students to develop their musical potential through the study of the Violin, Viola, Cello, or String Bass. No prior experience is necessary. Students will build technical, interpersonal, and rehearsal skills while beginning to develop a beautiful tone and learning to read musical notation. Sixth grade Orchestra students will perform in at least three evening concerts during the year.

Necessary equipment for Orchestra: instrument with bow and case, rosin, name tag for case, cleaning cloth, Essential Elements 2000 for Strings – Book 1, shoulder rest (Violins and Violas), Rockstop (Cellos and Bases), music stand (kept at home). A **very limited** number of instruments will be available for rental from the school district, based primarily on financial need. **To ensure your child's success in Orchestra, please wait to obtain an instrument until our KMS rental night in early September. Many parents who buy or rent an instrument early are stuck with equipment that is the wrong size or is of inferior quality. If you have questions, please call Eileen Iams at 751-3881.**

6TH GRADE QUARTERLY ENCORE WHEEL

***Students choosing the Encore Wheel will be scheduled into all *four* encore options, one each quarter**

***Encore rotation is every 9 weeks.**

ART

Expand your horizons with new ways to make art! 6th grade Art will introduce students to drawing, painting, sculpture, and design, with a variety of techniques and materials. Students will also learn about other cultures and ways different people make art around the world in this hands-on class.

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE (FACS)

Learn survival skills to make it through 6th grade and life. Learn what kinds of foods make you feel better. Create healthy snacks. Learn to care for yourself and others. Make a small sewing project.

KEYS FOR SUCCESS

This course will consist of fundamental keyboarding skills. Students will learn to type the basic alphabet keyboard by touch. Students will work on speed building, basic formatting and file management. This is a required 6th grade course for all non-music students. Upon completion, students will type 20 wpm and have a sound understanding of basic word processing and file management.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

The 6th grade Technology Education Encore is designed as an exploratory class that is a mixture of woods, Automation & Robotics, and Design & Modeling. It will give each student the opportunity to participate and have working knowledge in three different areas of Technology Education at KMS.

At the end of the 6th grade Technology Education Encore students will be able to:

- Accurately measure with yardsticks, meter sticks, measuring tapes, during numerous measuring games.
- Demonstrate an understanding and the skill level required to identify and safely use the hand and power tools needed to build the birdhouse.
- Explore the coding program RobotC and use the Vex kits used in Robotics.
- Become familiar with Autodesk Inventor and be able to create a model to be printed out on the 3D printer.

7TH GRADE REQUIRED COURSES

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

The seventh grade English Language Arts class offers students a solid basis for developing their literacy skills. Following the Montana Content Standards, areas of emphasis include reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language. Building on the skills from Grade 6, students will practice narrative, informative and argumentative writing, continuing to use research and the writing process.

Students will be exposed to integrated units involving such elements as a variety of texts, writing of different types, and speaking and listening tasks. Student-selected reading is encouraged and required. Vocabulary and language skills are also integrated. Students will be instructed in and expected to use the library and its print and electronic resources to enhance their research skills.

- **READING ENRICHMENT:** Reading Enrichment is a class designed for students to improve their success and efficiency in reading and specifically targets students who are novice and nearing proficient in reading as identified by district reading assessments, teacher recommendations, and further individual assessments. Specific and tailored reading skill instruction is combined with the Social Studies content as outlined in the Montana Content Standards and Benchmarks for each grade level. The small group Reading Enrichment classes are designed to improve reading skills and reading strategy use in order to become skilled, independent and efficient readers. The classes are taught by two Reading Enrichment teachers and two Reading Enrichment Paraprofessionals.
- **SOCIAL STUDIES/READING COLLABORATION:** Social Studies/Reading collaboration is a class designed for students to make the transition from small group Reading Enrichment class to the regular grade level core curriculum social studies class. Students are identified for this class using district reading assessments, teacher recommendations, and individual assessments. The class targets students who are close to reading proficiently at grade level and demonstrate nearing proficient independent learning behaviors. The classes are taught by a core Social Studies teacher and a Reading Instructor.

SCIENCE

Seventh grade science is the study of living things in their surroundings. Units of study include ecology, genetics, organization of living things, and the diversity of life. In addition to studying biological science, students will learn science and engineering practices and engage in labs and projects in support of SD5 literary standards.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Seventh grade Social Studies covers United States History from pre-European exploration through the U.S. Civil War and Reconstruction. Students will learn important research strategies as well as various study techniques. There will also be an emphasis on American Indian studies, geography, government, culture, and economics of the time period.

MATHEMATICS

***Teacher sign off is required for all math classes**

Each course follows the Common Core State Standards for mathematics that consist of two types of standards- Mathematical Practice and Mathematical Content. The Standards for Mathematical Content in grades 6-8 are organized under domains: The Number System, Ratios and Proportional Relationships, Functions, Expressions and Equations, Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. All courses focus on problem solving and real-world application.

- **7 MATH ACCELERATED** This course differs from the non-accelerated 7th grade course in that it contains content from 8th grade and is dependent upon a student having shown proficiency on the 7th grade standards that are taught in the 6th grade Accelerated Math class. The additional content demands a faster pace for instruction and learning. The accelerated program is designed for those students who can and have shown an ability to dig deeper into mathematics and problem solving at a faster pace. These students have proficient, if not advanced work ethic, and need not be prompted to complete work, or show more work in order to demonstrate a deeper understanding. Student placement is based on standardized assessment data, classroom assessment data, attendance, and daily work ethic.
- **7 MATH** In Grade 7, instructional time will focus on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

HEALTH ENHANCEMENT

The Health Enhancement Department is dedicated to providing the opportunity for students to establish healthy lifestyle patterns. The goal of the Health Enhancement course is to provide students with the necessary skills and knowledge needed to make healthy decisions for their physical, social, and emotional health. Health Enhancement is a combination of academic and physical education that takes place in the classroom and a physical activity environment.

Students will need appropriate clothing for physical education. This includes gym shoes, socks and the KMS PE uniform (shorts and shirt) which is purchased at the school for \$20.00. We also may have gently used PE uniforms for sale at a reduced price (\$5.00).

KMS Health Enhancement classes provide instruction on human sexuality based on the Montana Health Enhancement Content Standards. A parent, guardian, or other person who is responsible for the care of a child may opt out of their child's participation in human sexuality instruction. This includes instruction delivered by district staff or guests invited at the request of the district during class, at an assembly, or at an organized school function. Please contact your student's Health Enhancement teacher if you would like to opt out of human sexuality education.

8TH GRADE REQUIRED COURSES

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Students in 8th grade English Language Arts will follow a course outline that meets state and district standards in reading, writing, grammar, vocabulary, speaking and listening. Students will write using a variety of formats with emphasis on the Montana Content Standards.

Teachers will stress independent reading as well as formal instruction in different genres of literature that may include biography, autobiography, short stories, novels, dramatic literature, and poetry. Instruction in Greek and Latin roots will facilitate spelling and vocabulary acquisition. In addition, students will use a variety of research tools including the library and Internet.

- **READING ENRICHMENT:** Reading Enrichment is a class designed for students to improve their success and efficiency in reading and specifically targets students who are novice and nearing proficient in reading as identified by district reading assessments, teacher recommendations, and further individual assessments. Specific and tailored reading skill instruction is combined with the Social Studies content as outlined in the Montana Content Standards and Benchmarks for each grade level. The small group Reading Enrichment classes are designed to improve reading skills and reading strategy use in order to become skilled, independent and efficient readers. The classes are taught by two Reading Enrichment teachers and two Reading Enrichment Paraprofessionals.
- **SOCIAL STUDIES/READING COLLABORATION:** Social Studies/Reading collaboration is a class designed for students to make the transition from small group Reading Enrichment class to the regular grade level core curriculum social studies class. Students are identified for this class using district reading assessments, teacher recommendations, and individual assessments. The class targets students who are close to reading proficiently at grade level and demonstrate nearing proficient independent learning behaviors. The classes are taught by a core Social Studies teacher and a Reading Instructor.

SCIENCE

Eighth grade physical science is a study of chemistry and physics. Science concepts are presented in a variety of ways including labs, discussions, demonstrations, and direct instruction. The class prepares students for further study in the field of science and helps students explain the world around them. Science and engineering practices and safety are emphasized.

SOCIAL STUDIES

8th grade Social Studies will focus mainly on Montana history. Important topics include American Indian tribal history, European exploration, the fur trade, mining, livestock and ranching, homesteading, the railroad industry, territory and statehood, and major 20th century people and events. Throughout the year global studies topics will also be addressed to help students learn basic world geography as well as think critically about major current events that are shaping today's world.

MATHEMATICS

***Teacher sign off is required for all math classes**

Each course follows the Common Core State Standards for mathematics that consist of two types of standards – Mathematical Practice and Mathematical Content. The Standards for Mathematical Content in grades 6-8 are organized under domains: The Number System, Functions, Expressions and Equations, Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. All courses focus on problem solving and real-world application.

- **8 ALGEBRA 1 (ACCELERATED):** This course differs from High School Algebra I in that it contains content from 8th grade. While coherence is retained, in that it logically builds from the Accelerated 7th Grade, the additional content when compared to the high school course demands a faster pace for instruction and learning. The critical areas deepen and extend understanding of linear and exponential relationships by contrasting them with each other and by applying linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend. In addition, the units introduce methods for analyzing and using quadratic functions, including manipulating expressions for them, and solving quadratic equations. Students understand and apply the Pythagorean Theorem and use quadratic functions to model and solve problems.
- **8 MATH** In Grade 8, instructional time will focus on three critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

HEALTH ENHANCEMENT

The Health Enhancement Department is dedicated to providing the opportunity for students to establish healthy lifestyle patterns. The goal of the Health Enhancement course is to provide students with the necessary skills and knowledge needed to make healthy decisions for their physical, social, and emotional health. Health Enhancement is a combination of academic and physical education that takes place in the classroom and a physical activity environment.

Students will need appropriate clothing for physical education. This includes gym shoes, socks and the KMS PE uniform (shorts and shirt) which is purchased at the school for \$20.00. We also may have gently used PE uniforms for sale at a reduced price (\$5.00).

KMS Health Enhancement classes provide instruction on human sexuality based on the Montana Health Enhancement Content Standards. A parent, guardian, or other person who is responsible for the care of a child may opt out of their child's participation in human sexuality instruction. This includes instruction delivered by district staff or guests invited at the request of the district during class, at an assembly, or at an organized school function. Please contact your student's Health Enhancement teacher if you would like to opt out of human sexuality education.

7TH & 8TH GRADE TRIMESTER ENCORE COURSES

***Encore courses are trimester classes that will be taught over a 12-week period**

STEM

Middle school is the perfect time for students to explore and learn that there is more than one way to reach a solution. **STEM** provides engineering, biomedical science and computer science curriculum for middle school students that challenges, inspires, and offers schools variety and flexibility. Students get rigorous and relevant experiences through activity, project, and problem-based learning. They use industry-leading technology to solve problems while gaining skills in communication, collaboration, critical-thinking, and creativity. Through topics like robotics, and DNA and crime scene analysis, middle school students engage their natural curiosity and imagination in creative problem solving. Middle School STEM is a strong foundation for further STEM learning in high school and beyond, challenging students to solve real-world challenges, such as cleaning oil spills and designing sustainable housing solutions. Using the same advanced software and tools as those used by the world's leading companies, students learn how to apply math, science, technology, and engineering to their everyday lives.

- **AUTOMATION & ROBOTICS:** Students trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics. They learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation and computer control systems. Students use a robust robotics platform to design, build and program a solution to solve an existing problem.
- **ENGINEERING & MORE:** Engineering and more is a middle school level course that is appropriate for students who are interested in engineering and design. Students will be introduced to the Autodesk Inventor, a CAD (Computer-Aided Design) program. Students will design, 3D print and race a CO2 dragster. Other projects will be solid-fuel rockets and airplanes.
- **CODING FOR CREATORS - 8TH GRADE ONLY:** Bring your ideas to life with code. Designed to be the first computer science course for students, regardless of their level of computer experience or knowledge. This course will empower students to create authentic artifacts and engage with computer science as a medium for creativity, communication, problem solving, and fun.

ART

- **DARE TO DRAW:** Warning! Your drawings will improve! Don't be scared, people were drawing before the written word. Dare to draw in new and exciting ways! This drawing class will teach students how to create realistic and abstract drawings from real life and from their imaginations. Students get to experiment with a variety of drawing materials including graphite, charcoal, ink, watercolor, digital tools, and many more!
- **3-D CREATE!** Do you like to get your hands dirty? You are a natural; put those Lego skills to work! Explore sculpture and S.T.E.A.M. through the world around you. In this hands-on, three-dimensional class students will be diving into different sculpture ideas. This class will teach students how to sculpt and draw in both realistic and abstract ways to create objects from real life and their imaginations. Students will also learn basic metalsmithing techniques including soldering, ring, and chain making. Other materials will include paper mache, wood, wire, and plaster. Find out how science, technology, engineering, art, and math (S.T.E.A.M) intertwine into the world of 3D CREATE!

- **MODERN ART AND DESIGN (MAD):** Glass fusing, Illusions and More! Where do artists get their ideas? Discover design in all its incredible forms! This design class will teach students how to break down both realistic and abstract compositions to create their own ideas. Students will get to experiment with a variety of design techniques including optical illusions, printmaking, glass fusing, collage, digital drawing, and many more!

INDUSTRIAL TECH

- **CREATIVE CONSTRUCTION:** Build Hopes, Build Dreams, and Build Scale Model Houses in our Architecture and Construction program. This class offers the students an opportunity to draw their scale model house using the basic drafting tools. The students will then be able to reproduce their drawing on an exciting home building computer program called 3DArchitect. Once the students have completed their design, they will build a scale model out of wood of their house. It is an exciting and fun way to learn about Architecture and Construction.
- **WOODWORKING:** This class will offer students the opportunity to learn how to safely use hand and power tools. They will build a stool, a salt and pepper shaker, and other projects if time permits.

OFFICE AIDE

Available to non-music students

- Office Assistants will be chosen based on grades, attendance, class placement options and Encore selections. Student Assistants must demonstrate responsibility, respect, and confidentiality. Duties will include delivering messages, passes and general office work. Administration will determine which Encore class will be dropped when a student is given the opportunity to be a Student Assistant.
- Please note: only twelve positions are available per grade.

WORLD LANGUAGES

- **INTRODUCTION TO FRENCH:** Bonjour! Are you curious about new places and faces in the world? If so, then studying a foreign language is for you! In this class, you'll learn the basics of the French language, practice introducing yourself, talking about your life at school, talking about your preferences, and learn about some activities and people in the French speaking world. This class is available to both 7th and 8th grade students. À bientôt!
- **INTRODUCTION TO SPANISH:** ¡Hola! Are you curious about new places and faces in the world? If so, then studying a foreign language is for you! In this class, you'll learn the basics of the Spanish language, practice introducing yourself, talking about your life at school, talking about your preferences, and learn about some activities and people in the Spanish speaking world. This class is available to both 7th and 8th grade students. ¡Hasta luego amigos!
- **EXPANDING FRENCH – 8TH GRADE ONLY**
By taking Expanding French, you will be able to take your French skills and knowledge to the next level! We will focus on different aspects of culture in this class and expand our French vocabulary through various projects and activities. This is a more in-depth experience, so grab your baguette and “on y va”! This class is designed for students who have already had an introduction to the French language and its cultures.

- **EXPANDING SPANISH – 8TH GRADE ONLY**

By taking Expanding Spanish, you will be able to take your Spanish skills and knowledge to the next level! We will focus on different aspects of culture in this class and expand our Spanish vocabulary through various projects and activities. This is a more in-depth experience, so grab your sombrero and ¡vamos! This class is designed for students who have already had an introduction to the Spanish language and its cultures.

INFORMATION TECH – 7th GRADE

- **COMPUTER APPLICATIONS:** The course that provides real world skills for every student including the review of fundamental keyboarding skills. This course will cover a variety of widely used software applications. The class will cover word processing tips and tricks, basic spreadsheet functions, and dos and don'ts for authoring digital presentations. The themes of Digital Citizenship will be emphasized throughout the course.

INFORMATION TECH - 8th GRADE

- **DIGITAL ART AND DESIGN:** Students will learn to use various graphic editing programs and web publishing software. Proper layout, photo editing, and web design will be underlying themes of this course. Digital Citizenship will be emphasized throughout the course. Learn / Practice / Explore some of the most popular software tools to increase your school success!
- **MULTIMEDIA AND MORE:** This course provides students hands-on experience with current technology in the marketplace. A wide range of software will be explored. Students will use their creativity and skills to create and edit interactive multimedia presentations, digital images, sound, movies, and animations. The themes of Digital Citizenship will be emphasized throughout the course.

SOCIAL STUDIES ELECTIVES - 7th & 8th

- **MODERN HISTORY:** Modern History focuses on 20th and 21st Century American and World history. This course includes all the information you rarely get to in your average history class. Topics include U.S. and world events, pop culture, sports, trends, current events and more.
- **SWORDS, CASTLES, AND SHIELDS OH MY – 7TH GRADE ONLY**

Swords, Castles and Shields is a class focusing on the ancient technologies and social orders of Europe. This class will build off the information that students acquired in 6th grade about the Medieval World. We will discuss the importance of the Bronze Age, Iron Age, and the Middle Age. Instruction will focus on the cultures of Greece, Rome, Persia, England, and others. The class will also be taking a very close look at the evolution of technology from about 2000 B.C. to about 1500 A.D. (structures, architecture, and weaponry). Projects may include Model Castles, Siege Models (catapults, trebuchets), Phalanxes and Legions Models, and Battle Reconstruction.
- **WORLD GEOGRAPHY – 7TH GRADE ONLY**

World Geography is the study of the Earth and its lands, features, inhabitants, and phenomena. Students will seek to understand the Earth and all of its human and natural complexities – not merely where objects are, but how they have changed and come to be. Emphasis will be placed on a detailed study of each of the seven continents, as well as a basic understanding of geographical terms.

- **HOMER, CLEOPATRA, AND THE CAESARS – 8TH GRADE ONLY**

Are you interested in the mysteries of Stonehenge, the engineering behind the Great Pyramids, or the amazing stories of Greek Mythology? Then this class is for you! Students will build on their 6th grade study of Ancient Civilizations while doing deeper dives on topics that interest them. This class includes a field trip to the Stonehenge Air Museum, hands-on building projects, and fun technology that helps bring the ancient world to life!

- **MONTANA EXPERIENCE- 8TH GRADE ONLY**

Montana Experience combines modern industries with historical life. Some of the topics we delve into are the history and modern techniques for cattle branding, ghost towns, and historical places in Montana. We make Montana related board games and plan road trips!

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE (FACS) - 7th GRADE

- **CULINARY ARTS:** Do you have what it takes to be a chef? Come experience the whole process of planning, prepping, practicing skills, and various techniques. Take this class and gain the ability to prepare beautiful, healthy food within a budget.
- **TEXTILE EXPLORATIONS:** Learn sewing skills and inspire yourself to think creatively, take responsibility, set goals, solve problems, dream big to create and operate a business in this class. This class will help students discover they have the power to use their sewing and entrepreneurial skills to do whatever they want in life. We will also explore the fashion industry and you will try your hand at design and apparel care.

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE (FACS) - 8th GRADE

- **HOSPITALITY:** Follow the journey of your food. In this class you will have opportunities to explore cooking, baking and knife skills while preparing you for entry into the culinary world. Discover the history of food culture, food service, and global cuisines while learning about food science principles and preservation. You will try your hand at planning, preparing, and serving a meal to guests.
- **TEXTILES, CONSTRUCTION AND DESIGN:** Let your creativity and design skills shine. In this class you will use sewing skills and create original innovative projects while exploring mixed media fiber art. This course integrates knowledge, skills, and practices required for careers in textiles, scientific research, and fashion and marketing.

7TH & 8TH GRADE YEAR LONG PERFORMANCE MUSIC

- **BAND 7:** The focus of this band is the continued development and refinement of skills begun in the Beginning Band. Emphasis is on individual fundamentals and ensemble performance. Home practice is expected, and private lessons are encouraged at this level. The Intermediate Band will perform at least three public concerts during the school year. Students will also have opportunities for solos, small groups, and may participate in the Jazz Band.
- **BAND 8:** Further development of personal musicianship and ensemble experience are the foundation of the Advanced Band. More difficult music and some advanced performance techniques are explored. Additionally, some music theory, composition, and ear training will be introduced. This group performs at least four concerts during the school year, and occasionally participates in some off-campus activities, such as festivals and trips. There are increased opportunities for individual musical growth such as small ensembles, solos, and Jazz Band.
- **CHOIR 7:** This course is designed to meet the needs of 7th grade boys and girls who want a positive experience, including learning basic music reading skills, becoming proficient in two- and four-part singing, becoming acquainted with various musical styles, and enjoying a sense of belonging to a singing group. It is expected that these students will make a strong commitment to the choir. Other topics covered in class include basic music literacy, basic tone production, choral literature, and performance discipline. Students will perform in four evening concerts and take at least one field trip to sing in the community.

Students are placed in this choir based on their desire to sing and their willingness to learn and build upon the skills they bring to the group. Its unique structure is designed to serve the motivated student who has little or no music experience or background.

- **CHOIR 8:** This course is designed to meet the needs of students who want a positive experience, including learning basic music reading skills, becoming proficient in two-, three-, and four-part singing, becoming acquainted with various musical styles, and enjoying a sense of belonging to a singing group. It is expected that these students will make a strong commitment to the choir. Other topics covered in the class include basic music literacy, basic tone production, choral literature, and performance discipline.

Students are in choir based on their desire to sing and their willingness to learn and build upon the skills they bring to the group. Its unique structure is designed to serve the motivated student who has little or no music experience or background. Students will perform in four evening concerts and take at least one field trip to sing somewhere in the community.

- **ORCHESTRA 8:** Eighth Grade Orchestra is the Middle School's most advanced performing ensemble for string players. Prior playing experience is required. The primary focus is on the continued refinement and extension of intermediate skills learned in seventh grade orchestra with an increasing emphasis on ensemble performance skills. Students will expand their knowledge of music theory and begin to analyze and evaluate music, using critical thinking skills to enhance their performance. Other topics covered will include tone development, two-octave scales, shifting, vibrato, ear-training, rhythmic development, and sight-reading. Private lessons are encouraged. Eighth grade orchestra students will perform in at least four evening concerts during the year and will perform in Missoula at the U of M Orchestra Festival in November.

Necessary equipment for Orchestra: instrument with bow and case, rosin, name tag for case, cleaning cloth, shoulder rest (Violins and Violas), rockstop (Cellos and Basses), music stand (kept at home), and

an electronic chromatic tuner. A **very limited** number of Cellos and Basses will be available for rental from the school district, based primarily on financial need. Violinists and violists should rent their own instruments from a reputable music store. Instruments of sub-par quality and/or setup will not be allowed in Orchestra class or in performances. **Please contact Eileen Iams at 751-3881 for assistance in finding an instrument of the appropriate quality to improve your child's experience in Orchestra.**

