

7th / 8th Grade Electives

FULL-YEAR CLASSES

Band (FULL YEAR) This is the instrumental music class for students in grades 7 and 8. As students continue with their participation in band, there are additional opportunities for performances and experiences. A few examples are: Jazz Band, Drumline, Halloween Concert, Solo and Ensemble Festival, and Concert Festival.

Choir (FULL YEAR) This is the vocal music class for students in grades 7 and 8.

TRIMESTER-LONG CLASSES (12 Weeks)

2-D/Drawing Students will explore multiple drawing tools using graphite, colored pencils, oil/chalk pastels, paint as well as other materials within a variety of projects.

3-D/Ceramics Students will work on clay pieces through different methods of construction. Other forms of sculpture will be explored with wire, wood and paper mache'.

Mixed Media Students will experience/explore different materials such as: plaster, stained glass mosaics, clay, batik-hot wax on, calligraphy-using pen and ink and fiber arts.

Studio Art Students will learn and work with the elements and principles of design. Projects may include; collage, painting, 3-D sculpture, wire work, drawing and oil pastels.

Animation Students will begin with a basic understanding of animation and then will proceed to learn many different techniques to complete an animated sequence. Flip books, animation wheels, claymation and computer animation are just a few of the areas that might be covered.

Robotics Students will use the LEGO NXT Mindstorms Robotics Kit to build a variety of robots. Students will use block coding to program their robots to maneuver using touch, light, sound, and ultrasonic sensors.

Robotics 2 This is a continuation of Robotics. Students work as teams to send their robots on more complex missions. Students will also use python coding for Edison robots.

Engineering Students learn to utilize the engineering process while applying scientific principles to construct a variety of devices designed to perform a specific task. Device construction varies from year to year, but may include some of the following: Boomilever, Bottle Rocket, Mousetrap Vehicle, Towers, Wheeled Vehicle

Advanced STEM Students will strengthen their understanding of science, technology, engineering, and math principles.

PE Elective 1 Students explore physical fitness and team sports. Emphasis is placed on games that include student involvement and high levels activity. The student's favorite, dodgeball is included.

PE Elective 2 Students explore physical fitness and team sports. Emphasis is placed on games that include student involvement and high levels activity. The student's favorite dodgeball is included.

PE Elective 3 Students explore physical fitness and team sports. Emphasis is placed on games that include student involvement and high levels activity. Of course, the student's favorite dodgeball is included. This is only available to 8th grade students.

Creative Writing Creative writing will be introduced by building a Writer's Notebook. The class will include poetry and narrative writing. Students will examine elements of writing, literary devices and accurate expression through the written word.

Forensics The purpose of this course is to improve a student's verbal communication and reduce anxiety while speaking in front of others. We will focus on public speaking and performance skills through a variety of activities.

Astronomy Students will apply process skills (predict, problem solve, observe, etc.) in a variety of topics pertaining to astronomy including meteorology, evolution of stars and their properties and extraterrestrial ice and water found in the solar system.

Google Sketchup 1 - is a 3D modeling computer program. Students will study a wide range of drawing applications such as architectural, interior design, landscape architecture, civil and mechanical engineering, film and video game design. Students will use Google Sketchup to create 3D drawing using multiple tools , shortcuts, get familiar with the idea of three dimensions, and being creative with abstract assignments

Google Sketchup 2 - is a continuation of Google Sketchup 1 but more advanced. The class will consist building knowledge of the tools from Sketchup 1, using tools with more accuracy, add additional tools, student driven assignments like designing a dream tree house, and can be continued in the high school (Google Sketchup 1 is a prerequisite)

Genius Hour: is a project based learning class designed for students that are able to independently work under teacher supervision. As a class and as individuals, students will select topics of interest to research, learn, and share knowledge. Bring your creativity and your thinking caps as you work to understand the world around you.

Natural Resources - Students will learn about wetlands and waterfowl migration, bear migration, and leaf identification depending on season, along with investigating vernal ponds and collecting data to form a report. Additionally, students will take a course in archery and be able to be efficient in shooting a bow, and will become certified in hunter's safety. The class will be going outside and doing multiple hands on activities.

Water Quality 1 - Students will learn about the testing of water quality and the importance of each test. The students will go on a water quality field trip to test a site (stream) and using their tests will gather data to analyze and create a report. The focus is on watersheds. This class is student-led and very hands-on.

Water Quality 2 - Is a continuation of Water Quality 1 but instead of gathering data from a stream or watershed the students will gather data from the Great Lakes. A field trip out to one of the Great Lakes to test water quality and be able to analyze the data and create a report. (Water Quality 1 is a prerequisite)

Simple Machines - Have you ever played the game Mousetrap? The trap begins with a crank which turns a set of gears. This begins a series of motions which ends in a cage being lowered over the "cheese wheel". This game represents the basic concepts of simple machines. Learning about simple machines is interesting and educational, but learning to put them together to perform a specific task is great fun and will be an experience you will remember for years.

Criminal Science Investigation (CSI) 1 - Everybody loves a mystery! Although some students may say they don't like science, it would be hard to find someone who doesn't like to investigate, explore, and do experiments. Criminal Science Investigations combines mystery and investigation in a highly exciting, engaging and educational experience.

Criminal Science Investigation (CSI) 2 - This is a continuation of CSI 1 but with the concentration of Forensic Entomology (study of insects), Forensic Anthropology (study of bones), arson investigation (study of fire) and accident reconstruction.

Current Events - Current Events class will also utilize informational reading and writing. Additionally, our students will study elections; learn how current local, state, and world issues relate to history. Current Events will also utilize the Internet. Students will learn about reliable and unreliable websites.

Journalism Journalism will focus on publishing a school newspaper. Students will spend a considerable amount of time learning technical writing. A focus will be on informational reading and writing

Religions and Culture This course will focus on the basis and formation of each world religion. This is a continuation of the basic seventh grade curriculum. Culture will also be a part of the course as students will explore how cultures develop, spread, and eventually lead to globalization.

Revolutionary War The class will study the major events of the Revolutionary war. Root causes of the war will also be a topic. The class will have a focus on map study as it relates to the Revolution.

Mythology Epic battles. Epic Heroes. Vengeful gods. This class will study classical Greek mythology and the stories that have been told and retold over thousands of years to explain the world around us. We will also explore some of the lasting influences that these stories have on modern art, culture and society.