

8TH GRADE ELECTIVE DESCRIPTIONS

2016- 2017 SCHOOL YEAR

ARTS EDUCATION

ADVANCED BAND

36 weeks (yearlong course)

Prerequisite: Intermediate Band

Advanced music, technique studies, and music theory are used to enhance students' playing. A wide variety of band literature is studied to give the students experience in various musical styles. Students also have the opportunity to participate in performance opportunities outside of school. Students should anticipate some after-school practices and evening performances.

CONCERT CHORUS

18 weeks (semester course)

Students will continue to apply correct singing technique and various elements of musical expression through developmentally appropriate and historic vocal literature. Students will use traditional notation in order to learn and create music, and to respond correctly to conductors' gestures both in rehearsal and public performance. Students in this class may be asked to represent the school in public performance.

VISUAL COMPOSITION (Art)

18 weeks (semester course)

This course is an in-depth study of the elements and principles of art. Drawing (including simple perspective), painting, and cut paper are among the techniques used in completing pictures with oil, pastels, markers, paints, colored paper, and other media.

DANCE

18 weeks (semester course)

The learner will identify and demonstrate elements and skills in dance (National Standard 1). The learner will understand choreographic principles, processes and structures (National Standard 2). The learner will understand that dance can create and communicate meaning (National Standard 3). The learner will apply and demonstrate critical and creative thinking skills in dance (National Standard 4). The learner will make connections between dance and healthful living (National Standard 6). The learner will have an in depth knowledge of ballet, jazz and modern dance techniques and vocabulary.

WORLD LANGUAGE

Spanish I

36 weeks (yearlong course)

Prerequisite: Beginning Spanish I (completed in 7th grade)

This course is a rigorous academic elective which continues the second and third parts of Spanish I - High School level. It enables students to strengthen and reinforce the skills acquired in the previous level (Beginning Spanish I) by increased use of Spanish and further refinement of grammatical structures. At the end of the school year, students will take the Spanish I District Exam to obtain Spanish I High School credit and to qualify for Spanish II in High School.

Please note- Spanish I in 8th grade is a yearlong elective.

CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Exploring FACS- Consumer Focus (FACS- Family and Consumer Sciences)

18 Weeks (semester course)

This middle school course will give students the opportunity to explore the following Family and Consumer Sciences topics:

- Personal Finance and Resource Management- opportunity to achieve Personal Financial Literacy certification through the EverFi Vault program.
- Food Service and Hospitality- opportunity to achieve the NC eFoodhandler certification, understand the basics for food service, food safety and sanitation culinary and hospitality.
- Apparel- explore factors influencing clothing choices, basic clothing construction techniques, and the function of marketing on clothing choices.
- Interior Design- basic principles of design, sustainable design, and managing a living space

Exploring Career Decisions

18 Weeks (semester course)

This elective engages students in the exploration of various careers and the following aspects of those careers which include job outlook, salary, education, and required skills. Students will complete a career survey and a personality test to determine their learning style and how this information influences their career choice. Other engaging activities may include participation in the National Junior Achievement program, guest speakers, job shadowing experiences, creation of a resume, cover letter, job application as well as mock interviews. Students enrolled in the course may join the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) club and participate in competitive events, job shadowing, community service and leadership activities which will provide the opportunity to apply essential standard workplace readiness skills through authentic experiences which includes travel.

Exploring Technology Systems 1

18 week (semester course)

This middle school course focuses on students' understanding how technological systems work together to solve problems and capture opportunities. As technology becomes more integrated and systems become dependent upon each other, this course gives students a general background on the different types of systems, with specific concentration on the connections between these systems. Art, English language arts, mathematics, and science are reinforced. Technology Student association (TSA) competitive events, community service, and leadership activities provide the opportunity to apply essential standards and workplace readiness skills through authentic experiences.

Advanced Computer Skills & Applications

18 Weeks (semester course)

Prerequisite: CSA (completed in either 6th grade or 7th grade)

This is an intermediate engaging hands-on course that provides instruction in Microsoft software applications such as word processing, desktop publishing, spreadsheets, database, and presentation. Students will use multiple web 2.0 tools such as Ignition Everfi, Canvas, Kahoot, YouTube and more. Instructional modules also include topics on digital literacy, cyber security and privacy issues. Students enrolled in the course may join the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) club and participate in competitive events, community service, job shadowing and leadership activities.

****Students who successfully completed Advanced CSA in 7th grade are not permitted to enroll in Advanced CSA again in 8th grade as it is the same curriculum.**

Exploring Economics, Finance & Leadership

18 Weeks (semester course)

This course is designed to explore the nature of business in an international economy and to study related careers in fields such as entrepreneurship, financial services, information technology, marketing, office systems technology, public relations and promotion, and travel and tourism. Emphasis is on using the computer while studying applications in these careers along with problem solving and thinking skills. This course contributes to the development of a career development plan. English language arts, mathematics, and social studies are reinforced. Work-based learning strategies appropriate for this course include service learning and job shadowing. Students will have the opportunity to participate in various games such as the Stock Market Game, Lemonade Stand, etc. Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) competitive events, community service, and leadership activities provide the opportunity to apply essential standards and workplace readiness skills through authentic experiences.