

Durant Road Middle School
Elective Course Descriptions for 6th Grade
2015-2016

Computer Skills & Applications I (CSAI)

This course is composed of instructional modules designed to allow students to learn the touch method of keyboarding, basic digital literacy and computer knowledge, and basic word processing and document formatting skills. It is highly recommended that students take this course in 6th grade. It is a prerequisite for any other computer courses offered at the 7th & 8th grade levels.

Exploring FACS-Family Focus

Students will have the opportunity to explore the following Family and Consumer Sciences topics:

- Interpersonal Relationships- understand yourself, your family, and ways to communicate.
- Nutrition and Wellness- nutrition, food choices, kitchen basics, and nutritious meal planning & preparation.
- Child Development- opportunity for Red Cross Babysitter certification, ages, stages and the care of young children.
- Interior Design- basic principles of design, sustainable design, and managing a living space

Technology Design & Innovation

This course focuses on applying the design process in the invention or innovation of a new product, process, or system. Through engaging activities and hands-on projects, students focus on understanding how criteria, constraints, and processes affect designs. Emphasis is placed on brainstorming, visualizing, modeling, testing, and refining designs. Students develop skills in researching information, communicating design information, and reporting results.

Beginning Band

Students learn to play a brass, woodwind, or percussion instrument. Emphasis is on the acquisition of basic musical skills and systematic progress rather than performance; however, band classes perform several concert compositions. No previous musical experience required. ***This is a year-long course.*** More information can be found at <http://durantroadms.wcpss.net/web/band/>.

Music Exploratory

Students are introduced to the skills necessary for singing and playing music with accuracy and expression. Through the study of various genres, composers, and cultures, students will learn to analyze and evaluate what they hear. Students may create their own simple compositions. Classes may have the opportunity to share what they learn with others.

Visual Arts Exploratory

This course introduces students to the elements of art through a variety of media that may include: drawing, painting, printmaking, mixed media, pottery, and weaving. Application of these elements to the students' own original art work is the major emphasis while being introduced to art history and critical analysis of master work as well as their own

Introduction to Theatre

Students are introduced to the fundamentals of Theatre Arts. We will start learning theatre arts vocabulary and concepts, learn to use appropriate audience etiquette, and explain the roles of actors and directors in creating performances. As we move into creative dramatics (including pantomime and story dramatization) you will learn to feel comfortable on stage using movement and voice to communicate ideas and feelings. In-class and informal performances will be an opportunity for you to apply what you learn.

Beginning Spanish

This course is an introduction to Spanish language and culture. Major emphasis will be placed on proper pronunciation and basic reading and writing skills. Topics include Spanish alphabet, greetings, classroom objects, telling time, calendar and weather. (*This is a required course for students who are interested in year-long 8th Grades Spanish. Teacher approval required.*)

<p style="text-align: center;">Durant Road Middle School Elective Course Descriptions for 7th Grade 2015-2016</p>

Computer Skills & Applications I (CSAI)

This course is composed of instructional modules designed to allow students to learn the touch method of keyboarding, basic digital literacy and computer knowledge, and basic word processing and document formatting skills. It is highly recommended that students take this course if they did not complete it in 6th grade. This course will not be offered in 8th grade. It is a prerequisite for any other computer courses offered at the 7th & 8th grade levels.

Computer Skills and Applications II (CSAII)

Prerequisite: Computer Skills and Applications I

This middle school course is composed of instructional modules designed to provide hands-on instruction in digital literacy and software applications. The software applications include word processing, desktop publishing, presentation software, spreadsheets, and databases.

Exploring FACS- Family Focus

Students will have the opportunity to explore the following Family and Consumer Sciences topics:

- Interpersonal Relationships- understand yourself, your family, and ways to communicate.
- Nutrition and Wellness- nutrition, food choices, kitchen basics, and nutritious meal planning & preparation.
- Child Development- opportunity for Red Cross Babysitter certification, ages, stages and the care of young children.
- Interior Design- basic principles of design, sustainable design, and managing a living space

Technology Design & Innovation

This course focuses on applying the design process in the invention or innovation of a new product, process, or system. Through engaging activities and hands-on projects, students focus on understanding how criteria, constraints, and processes affect designs. Emphasis is placed on brainstorming, visualizing, modeling, testing, and refining designs. Students develop skills in researching information, communicating design information, and reporting results.

Intermediate Band

Prerequisite: 6th Grade Band or audition for Band Director

This class will provide an in-depth study of varied and sophisticated music for intermediate and advanced students are the focus of these performing groups. Technical drills, scale studies, rhythm, and sight-reading exercises are used to advance the students' skill, knowledge, and reading ability in music. A wide variety of band literature is studied to give them experience in various musical styles. More information can be found at <http://durantroadms.wcpss.net/web/band/>. *This is a year-long course.*

Chorus

Students will apply correct singing technique and various elements of musical expression through developmentally appropriate and historic vocal literature. Students learn how to use traditional notation in order to learn and create music, and to respond correctly to conductors' gestures both in rehearsal and public performance. Students will study vocal music and its relationship to other cultures, eras, and geographical locations.

Visual Composition

Students will engage in deep study of the elements and principles of art centered on the curriculum set forth in the North Carolina Essential Standards for Visual Art. Two and three-dimensional techniques will be taught using a variety of media. Students explore various cultures, art history and learn to think and write critically about master work as well as their own.

Dramatics 1

In this course we work towards developing your acting skills through scene study with informal (in-class) productions. We will explore physical movement and acting skills necessary to express emotions, character and stories to an audience. You will learn to apply appropriate vocal elements of volume, flexibility, rate, projection and articulation - as well as vocal expression. We will practice appropriate audience etiquette and explore other theatre conventions and traditions. Lastly you will understand how to design technical theatre components, such as, costumes, props, sets, makeup, sound, and design as we plan for and present a formal production.

Beginning Spanish

This course is an introduction to Spanish language and culture. Major emphasis will be placed on proper pronunciation and basic reading and writing skills. Topics include Spanish alphabet, greetings, classroom objects, telling time, calendar and weather. *(This is a required course for students who are interested in year-long 8th Grade Spanish. Teacher approval required.)*

Durant Road Middle School Elective Course Descriptions for 8th Grade 2015-2016

Computer Skills and Applications II

Prerequisite: Computer Skills and Applications I

This middle school course is composed of instructional modules designed to provide hands-on instruction in digital literacy and software applications. The software applications include word processing, desktop publishing, presentation software, spreadsheets, and databases.

Exploring Business, Marketing, and Entrepreneurship

Prerequisites: Computer Skills and Applications I and II

This middle school 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.

Exploring FACS-Consumer Focus

Students will have 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.

Technology Design & Innovation

This course focuses on applying the design process in the invention or innovation of a new product, process, or system. Through engaging activities and hands-on projects, students focus on understanding how criteria, constraints, and processes affect designs. Emphasis is placed on brainstorming, visualizing, modeling, testing, and refining designs. Students develop skills in researching information, communicating design information, and reporting results.

Advanced Band

Prerequisite: 2 years of band or audition for band director

This class will provide an in-depth study of varied and sophisticated music for intermediate and advanced students are the focus of this performing group. String instruments are not included in this band. More information can be found at <http://durantroadms.wcpss.net/web/band/>. *This is a year-long course.*

Concert Chorus

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.

Pottery/Sculpture

Students will create their own work with a wide variety of media such as paper, wood, clay, plaster, papier mâché, or fabric. Students explore various cultures, art history and learn to think and write critically about master work as well as their own.

Dramatics 1

In this course we work towards developing your acting skills through scene study with informal (in-class) productions. We will explore physical movement and acting skills necessary to express emotions, character and stories to an audience. You will learn to apply appropriate vocal elements of volume, flexibility, rate, projection and articulation - as well as vocal expression. We will practice appropriate audience etiquette and explore other theatre conventions and traditions. Lastly you will understand how to design technical theatre components, such as, costumes, props, sets, makeup, sound, and design as we plan for and present a formal production.

SPANISH I (year-long course)

Prerequisite: Beginning Spanish in 6th or 7th grade

This course will continue with a more formal approach to Language study. We will continue to work on listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills with an emphasis on conversational Spanish. More information can found on school website under World Languages.