

All students will take each of the five required exploratory classes below:

Introduction to Agriculture

This course offering is a steady-paced class that covers all aspects of agriculture. Students will study various topics associated with career opportunities, plant growth, and environmental control factors related to plants. The course will also include studies about the diverse animal industry which include breeds, genetics, health and nutrition.

Art 8

Art 8 is a hands-on student centered course that focuses on developing skills and knowledge in drawing, painting, ceramics/pottery, sculpture, and computer graphics. Each project has been designed to increase student artistic skills, confidence and competence. A wide variety of materials will be used to create including: clay, acrylic paint, pastel, drawing pencils, CD's, and paper mache.

Careers

This course is designed to further introduce students to the wide variety of careers available to them. Students will research and plan for their careers including preparing a class presentation. They will learn about the job process including how to find and get a job, be successful on the job, meet career goals, stay safe on the job, and manage money. Learners will analyze their interests, skills, values, aptitudes and abilities using the career software, Career Locker and Career Cruising. Students will complete a job shadow and project related to their job shadow. Telephone and e-mail etiquette will be included in the job shadow unit. Learners will demonstrate proficient keyboarding speed as per state standards.

General Music

8th grade students enrolled in General Music will take part in a wide range of applied experiences involving music. The course is a hands-on continuation of the performance elements of instrumental units (percussion, handbells, piano, ukulele, composition) covered in 7th grade general music classes.

During this nine-week course, students will:

- Learn to read two-handed piano music
- Play the ukulele, guitar, and other ensemble instruments
- Play beginning to intermediate three to five octave handbell music
- Learn how to compose using an online mixing program

Technology Education 8

In this course, students will spend 9 weeks in the Engineering classroom and the Manufacturing Lab. During the engineering unit, students will explore the areas of robotics, laser, computer-aided drawing (C.A.D.), and the engineering design process. The manufacturing unit will introduce students to a variety of machines, tools, equipment, and materials. Students will turn raw materials into usable products.

EXPLORATORY OPTIONS

Students will select (5) and be scheduled for (3) unless Spanish I is selected

Agriculture Course Offering

Introduction to Agriculture is a required exploratory. No other agriculture offerings are available.

Art Course Offerings

Painting and Drawing

Drawing and painting are basic forms of visual communication and integral skills for artistic expression. This course challenges students to explore styles of drawing and painting. Students will be introduced to several drawing and painting techniques including; charcoal, pastels, mixed media, watercolor, acrylic, tempera and printmaking. Emphasis will be placed on developing skills so that students are confident with their skills as an artist. Students will be asked to creatively solve design problems in each artwork they create. *If you want to learn to draw and paint better, take this class.*

Sculpture and Computer Graphics

Sculpture is 3-D art and it can be functional (can use it) or non-functional (appreciate it). Students will create a wide variety of sculptures (sculptures, bowls, plates, wall pieces) by using clay, paper mache, wire, wood, found objects, etc. Students will also be able to create pottery on the potter's wheel.

Graphics will be incorporated when students experience working and creating with the Serif, iMovie, and Adobe programs. Students will develop skills in video production, photo manipulation and graphic design. Film editing skills will continue to be developed by using green screen technology (Serif and iMovie), claymation and a host of other possibilities.

Business Education Course Offerings

Programming and Publications

In Programming and Publications, students will continue learning computer programming languages, which they began in the seventh grade Business Skills class. Learners will create interactive games, apps, animations, and drawings in this programming unit. They will further develop their problem solving and logic skills while coding. In the Publications unit, students will incorporate the design elements they learned in seventh grade into creative projects including online interactive posters. They will learn how to use Serif PagePlus as well as the Jostens site Yearbook Avenue and will design online yearbook page layouts for their eighth grade class.

Web Design and Media

In Web Design and Media, students will design websites using numerous software applications including Google Sites and Serif WebPlus. They will design webpage layouts where they will manipulate text, graphics, hyperlinks and more to create their own sites. They will learn basic hypertext markup language (html) as well. Students will work with multimedia software including Serif MoviePlus and online tools where they will create and edit videos, further developing their communication and presentation skills. Learners will design a video for their 8th Grade Recognition Ceremony.

Music Course Offerings

Drama

Drama is a nine week elective course that gives 8th grade students the opportunity to explore acting and other aspects of theater production. Class members participate in theater games using improvisation and pantomime. Students also read, direct, perform and evaluate monologues, skits and plays in the classroom. Students demonstrate content understanding through classroom participation, guided discussion, performance, and reflective writing. The class is open to all interested 8th grade students.

Grading:

Drama is a graded class. Learning occurs through consistent concentration, responsible behavior, and cooperative class participation and discussion. Students earn a specified number of points during each unit. Participation, effort and individual progress are major grade determinants. Though not always indicative of a lack of content understanding, disruptive behavior will almost always contribute to a lower grade, as it impedes learning. In-class assignments, quizzes, tests and performances are also graded.

Music Composition (prerequisite: successful completion of 7th grade general music)

Students will learn the basics of composition and will develop their composing skills through classroom activities, the online composition program Noteflight, and a web-based course through the Young Composers & Improvisers Workshop. The course will culminate in a recital featuring student compositions.

Foreign Language Course Offering

Spanish I

In Spanish I, students will receive an introduction to the Spanish language. Students will learn the basic listening, reading, writing and conversational skills that compose the building blocks needed to further their Spanish language development in the subsequent classes. Students will learn basic grammar concepts and vocabulary in a unit-based curriculum. Student will read a short novel completely in Spanish as well as complete various projects. Cultural units will include an introduction to Hispanic celebrations, family life, food, music, and art. Student grades, test results and teacher recommendations will be used to determine class placement. Students who successfully complete the placement test at the end of the year will be eligible to take Spanish II as a freshman.

Technology Education Course Offerings

Manufacturing and Construction Processes

In this course, students will work in a manufacturing environment. Students will measure, learn about lab safety, and design/build projects using various types of materials and equipment. Students will also design, build, and test different construction systems. Some of these systems may include bridges, towers, and houses.

Flight/Space and Engineering

During this course, students will work on projects and assignments directly related to the areas of transportation and engineering. Some of these projects and assignments will include: model rocketry, aviation, and land/water vehicles. Students will also participate in technology labs such as robotics, creative problem-solving, mechanisms, and simple machines.