

7th and 8th Grade Electives

Advanced Drama

This class is for serious drama students who are interested in the dynamics of performance. Students will study all aspects of theater, including, but not limited to, acting, technical theater skills, stagecraft, stage management, script writing, dance, vocals, characterization, and pre/post production planning. Students will perform scenes, monologues, improvisation and skits, as well as participate in a full-length play or musical performance. Application and/or audition required.

Student Leadership (ASB)

Associated Student Body, or ASB, teaches the principles and dynamics of leadership. This course is designed to empower students to become effective leaders both on campus and in their own community. Students will explore various components of what it means to be an effective group member and leader through planning and implementing activities, programs, and events for their peers, including: dances, spirit weeks, lunchtime games/activities, sports tournaments, and fundraisers. Application required.

School Service (8th grade only)

This program offers practical experience in school office clerical duties. Office aides will assist the office staff in a variety of duties: delivering items around campus; maintaining communication between the office and classroom teachers; operating some of the office equipment; sorting and delivering mail; and helping the office staff as needed. Office aides are expected to maintain satisfactory academic and citizenship grades in all classes. Application required.

Spanish I (high school course—8th grade only)

This course offers students without any previous formal Spanish the opportunity to study and acquire the basic principles of listening, speaking, reading, and writing in Spanish. Students will also learn about culture, conversational techniques, and grammar concepts. The curriculum taught in this class is the same as that taught at the high school level. Students who receive a yearly cumulative grade of “A” or “B” will be recommended to advance to the second year of Spanish in high school. These students will also receive course credit toward meeting the foreign language requirement for college admission. Students will not, however, receive unit credit toward meeting the required 220 units for high school graduation. An “A” or “B” in 7th grade English is required to take this class.

Wheel Course Descriptions (possible classes)

Career and Technical Education (CTE)

CTE Investigation Lab is a semester-long course that focuses on college and career readiness. Modules are offered in various in-demand career subjects, and are self-guided projects in which students learn to program a robotic arm; code to print 3D models and parts; learn SolidWorks software, used in industry to program a CNC lathe or mill to carve out their creation; use tools and equipment to do biomedical research; develop and produce videos with audio and music utilizing drone footage; learn to engineer and build a catapult; and many other hands-on, work-based projects.

Forensic Science

A fun, hands-on (labs) course designed to explore the evidence seeking process during crime scene investigations. Such topics and labs could include: tool impressions; food/digestion chemistry; counterfeit money investigation; material fiber content evaluations; fingerprinting evaluations; glass fractures; handwriting analysis; shoe print impressions; fractures and bones injury comparison; blood and hair sample analysis; and typewriter analysis. Many of these labs involve the use of chemically detecting evidence as well as solving mysteries!

Home Arts (Teen Living)

Students in Home Arts explore food and nutrition components, including making simple food items. They also learn about personal grooming, fashion styles, clothing care, and how to hand sew and use sewing machines to complete projects. Child development and child care instructions are taught, complete with caring for a simulated/computerized baby for a 24-hour period. Other curriculum topics could include: interior design components, consumer awareness, budget management for a young adult, entrepreneurship, and careers associated with these subject areas.

Journalism

Students are introduced to the historical importance of journalism in America. They study basic principles of print and online journalism as they examine the role of printed news media in our society. They learn investigative skills, responsible reporting, and journalistic writing techniques as they read, respond to, and write their own news and feature articles. Students conduct interviews, research, write, and design their own publications or mini broadcasts

Robotics

Robotics is a standards-based design and engineering course that promotes problem solving and innovation within the classroom setting. Throughout the year, students learn to work together, in design teams, taking on the roles of: scientists, engineers, technicians, draftsmen, programmers, horticulturists, geologists, and explorers as they analyze and collaboratively problem solve using problem-based challenges in which they create a multitude of robotic designs to fulfill specific tasks.