

2017/2018 Middle School Exploratory/Elective Course Descriptions

Applied Study Skills (Year Long)

This year long course focuses on techniques and learning strategies to improve students' study skills. Emphasis is on students taking organized notes, time management, test-taking strategies, active listening, and methods of conducting research. In addition, students will have ongoing opportunities to apply these skills to their daily class work and receive feedback to enhance their study habits.

At the sixth grade level, this course differs from the Study Skills class in that it is one year long; the course is not graded, and allows time for students to apply new skills in their daily work.

Band (Year Long)

Band instructs students in the art of music performance on traditional band instruments such as flute, clarinet, oboe, saxophone, trumpet, horn, trombone, euphonium (baritone horn), tuba and percussion. The middle school band program is a continuation of the 5th Grade Elementary Band, and prepares students for the many Concert and Jazz Band courses at the High Schools. Band meets during the school day, and 6th Band members are offered a small group lesson during school hours. Band is a graded class that rehearses during the school day, and has several evening performances during the school year.

Choir (Year Long)

D303 Choir curriculum begins in 6th grade. Choir is a performing music ensemble that studies vocal music in a variety of styles and voicings: unison, 2 and 3-part as well as full Soprano-Alto-Tenor-Bass arrangements. Students are instructed on vocal tone production, tone quality, intonation, blend, balance, and part independence. Sight-singing, music notation, and music theory are a graded part of choir. 6th, 7th and 8th Choir progresses in difficulty and musicianship in preparation for the many Choir courses offered at the high schools. Choir is a graded class that rehearses during the school day, and has several required evening performances during the school year. No auditions are required, but there are several audition-only extra-curricular choirs.

Orchestra (Year Long)

Orchestra is a performing music ensemble that studies string techniques through a wide variety of musical styles. Orchestra includes traditional string orchestra instruments, such as violin, viola, cello and bass. Students will learn shifting, vibrato, chamber music, and part independence. Music theory is a graded part of orchestra. The middle school orchestra program is a continuation of Elementary Orchestra, and prepares students for the orchestral ensembles in the High Schools. Orchestra is a graded class that rehearses during the school day, and has several evening performances during the school year. There are no auditions for orchestra, but at least one year of previous string study or private lessons is necessary to be successful. There are also several audition-only extra-curricular orchestras as well.

READ 180 (Year Long)

READ 180 is a research-based program that uses adaptive software, audiobooks, high-interest print, and an interactive workbook designed to develop a student's reading and writing skills. Together all of these components help to build the skills to become a successful reader. Additionally, studies show that the program also improves a student's motivation and desire to succeed in school. Students will be selected for this course.

Language Arts Plus

Through a variety of instructional strategies, students are provided additional support in the area of language arts to construct and make meaning of their learning. Students will set goals, have accurate and clear learning targets, and will be provided with multiple practice opportunities and constructive feedback, all in an engaging learning environment.

Math Plus

Through a variety of instructional strategies, students are provided additional support in the math to construct and make meaning of their learning. Students will set goals, have accurate and clear learning targets, and will be provided with multiple practice opportunities and constructive feedback, all in an engaging learning environment.

EXPLORATORY OVERVIEW

2017/2018 Middle School Exploratory/Elective Course Descriptions (All Nine Weeks)

Department	6 th Grade	7 th Grade	8 th Grade
Business	Study Skills	Careers in Business	Exploring Entrepreneurship Business Communication
Family and Consumer Science		Careers in FACS	Fashion and Design Culinary Arts and Hospitality Service Learning
Technology and Engineering	Careers in Technology, Engineering, and Transportation PLTW: Design and Modeling	PLTW: Automation and Robotics	PLTW: Energy and the Environment PLTW: Flight and Space PLTW: Green Architecture PLTW: Magic of Electrons Industry Technologies Digital Media
Music		Music	Music: Song Writing and Recording
Art	Art		Art

Overview

Business

Middle school business courses will engage students in rigorous curricula which will help them develop career and life competencies such as collaboration, critical thinking and problem-solving, adaptability, innovation and creativity, communication, initiative, and information literacy necessary to be successful in college and career. Through problem-based learning and real-life applications, students will be given the opportunity to practice the career and life competencies related to business.

Family and Consumer Science

Middle school education and training, hospitality, and fashion courses will engage students in rigorous curricula which will help them develop career and life competencies such as collaboration, critical thinking and problem-solving, adaptability, innovation and creativity, communication, initiative, and information literacy necessary to be successful in college and career. Through problem-based learning and real-life applications, students will be given the opportunity to practice the career and life competencies in relation to education and training, hospitality, and fashion and design.

Technology and Engineering

Middle school technology, engineering, and transportation courses will engage students in rigorous curricula which will help them develop career and life competencies such as collaboration, critical thinking and problem-solving, adaptability, innovation and creativity, communication, initiative, and information literacy necessary to be successful in college and career. Through problem-based learning and real-life applications, students will be given the opportunity to practice the career and life competencies in relation to technology, engineering, and transportation.

6th Grade

Study Skills

This course focuses on techniques and learning strategies to improve students' study skills. Students learn how to set goals, develop strategies to achieve them, and monitor progress throughout the quarter. Areas of study include taking organized notes, time management, test-taking strategies, active listening, and methods of conducting research.

Careers in Technology, Engineering, and Transportation

This course will provide students with an opportunity to explore careers associated with technology in graphic communications; energy; transportation; architecture and construction; and manufacturing production. Areas of study include solar power, wind power, shed construction, rocketry, bridge design and building and home design.

PLTW: Design and Modeling

Do you want to learn about what engineers do? Students will learn to think like an engineer and use the design process in order to solve problems. Students will spend time learning about how engineers communicate through the use of sketches and CAD models. Emphasis is placed on understanding how to record and document work in an engineer's notebook. A majority of the projects require students to sketch, dimension, and create a CAD model for their solution to a problem.

Art

This course utilizes 21st Century Skills and the elements of art to create artwork that explore areas of personal communication and visual literacy. Design choices and visual problem solving are goals supported through a variety of materials that could include paint, graphite, chalk, ink, wire, wood and clay to allow for student choice and decision making.

7th Grade

Careers in Business

In this course, students will explore the pathways of the business world with an emphasis on how their interests and education impact their career choices. Students will investigate colleges, career clusters, the three domains of business, and corporations; as well as, form business partnerships to market an original product. While working with partners and small groups, students will develop the skills of communication, responsibility, teamwork, and positive attitude. This course has a hands-on software component that will allow students to apply what they have learned and check their profits at the end of each business day.

Careers in FACS

This course will introduce students to the variety of career opportunities in Family & Consumer Science including, but not limited to, interior designer, fashion designer, chef, and nutritionist.

Students will learn how interior designers use the elements of design to create an illusion or feel in a room and how to personalize a room on a limited budget. As a fashion designer, students will learn the basic techniques of construction as they independently design and complete a piece of fashion. In learning about being a chef, students will plan, prepare and sample a variety of tasty recipes as they discover proper measuring techniques, knife skills and the key to teamwork in the kitchen. Students will learn how nutritionists use information on a food label (like all the different names for sugar) when guiding people to better food choices.

PLTW: Automation and Robotics

If you enjoy taking things apart to see how they work, then this class is for you. In this introductory robotics course, students will explore how robotics and automation impact our society. Students will build mechanisms, which make robots move. The final project includes students programming their robots to perform specific tasks, such as building a dragster.

Music

Ever want to play music? Students will create, perform, and experience music using a variety of instruments and technology. Students will study music genres such as pop, rock, country, jazz, and blues, as well as how movie music makes the scene. At the end of the course students will put together small ensembles of their choice for a final performance experience!

8th Grade

Exploring Entrepreneurship

This course will allow students to discover what it takes to be a business owner in the global economy by exploring the risks and rewards of entrepreneurship. Planning, marketing, and budgeting will all be emphasized. This course has a hands-on software component that will allow students to make business choices, see if those choices result in a profitable enterprise, and revise their business practices as needed to become a profitable entrepreneur.

Business Communication

This course is designed to help students develop and refine workplace communication skills. Students will work on listening skills, following directions, and resolving conflicts. Students will create their first resume and learn how to compose effective business letters. Media literacy is an additional component of this course. Understanding how businesses communicate with their customers will be emphasized, as students analyze advertisements and create original advertisements.

Fashion and Design

Do you have an eye for fashion? Do you like choosing clothes and accessories for others? Students in fashion and design will learn how the elements of design can impact how a person looks and feels as well as how these elements apply to clothing selection while creating a wardrobe for themselves or a client. Students will learn how to illustrate clothing on a croquis and gain an understanding of the education, training and wide range of careers in the field of fashion. Students will produce and market a simple garment.

Culinary Arts and Hospitality

Do you enjoy cooking, would like to improve your culinary skills, or just try new foods? In eighth grade culinary arts and hospitality, students will cook; sample a variety of recipes while learning new cooking terms, techniques, time management skills, sanitation and safety practices; and discover how much it actually costs to make a recipe. Students will be asked to give input on recipes they would like to make and will be given the opportunity to show off their culinary talents when hosting a guest meal.

Service Learning

This course will focus on leadership and character and civic development. Collaboratively, students will take the initiative to research, develop, and implement a community service project to better the community in which they live.

PLTW: Flight and Space

This course brings to life the rich history of aerospace through hands-on activities, research, and a multi-media presentation. Students explore the science behind aeronautics and use their knowledge to design, build, and test an airfoil.

PLTW: Magic of Electrons

In this course, students explore the science of electricity, behavior and parts of atoms, and sensing devices. Students acquire knowledge and skills in basic circuitry design and examine the impact of electricity on our lives.

PLTW: Energy and the Environment

In this course, students investigate the impact of energy on our lives and the environment. Students design and model alternative energy sources and participate in an energy expo to demonstrate energy concepts and innovative ideas. Students evaluate ways to reduce energy consumption through energy efficiency and sustainability.

PLTW: Green Architecture

This course presents the concept of “being green” to the next generation of designers and builders. In this unit, students are introduced to architectural plans, construction styles, alternative materials and processes, dimensioning, measuring and architectural sustainability. Students use a 3D architectural software program to create an environmentally friendly home using shipping containers.

Industry Technologies

In this course, students will learn valuable skills that can be used in the workplace and/or around the home. Students will learn various tools they can use to design, build, and create projects. For the final project, students will measure, design, build, and race their own CO2 dragster.

Digital Media

In this course, students will create a website using a variety of technologies to highlight each student’s skills. Emphasis is placed on using digital media to express oneself clearly and concisely to a specific target audience.

Music: Songwriting and Recording

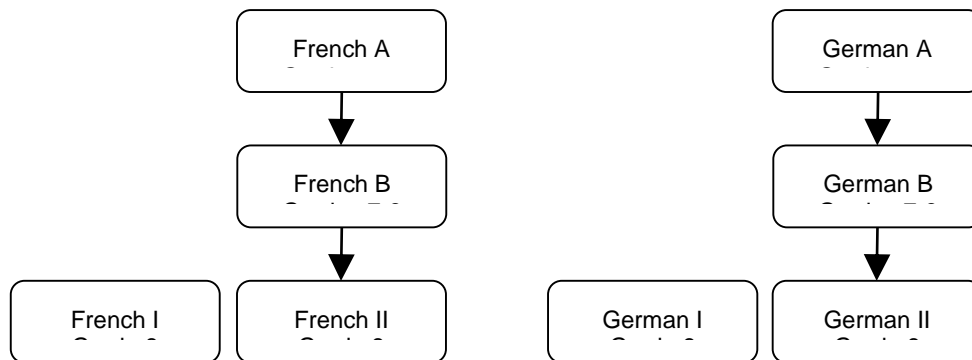
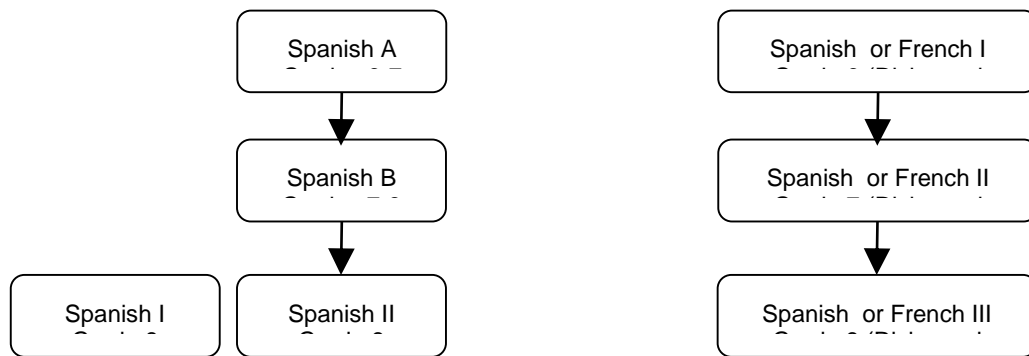
Ever turn on the radio and want to hear your own songs? Interested in writing your own songs and producing your own music? In this class students will learn the basic techniques of various rock band instruments, how to write a song, how to perform together in a group, and how to record a finished song.

Art

Interested in drawing, painting, sculpting and creating 2-Dimensional and 3-Dimensional artwork? This course utilizes 21st Century Skills and will build on the skills students learned in 6th grade Art. Students will have the opportunity to utilize various art tools, materials, techniques, and processes through exposure to and experimentation with different art materials. Students will also use the artistic process to evaluate and improve their artwork while responding to artwork from other artists and cultures. Some art projects may be self-directed, fueled by the students’ own interests with research in art history, cultures, and contemporary art. Students are encouraged to express themselves in their own individual, honest, unique and creative way.

2017/2018 Middle School Foreign Language Course Descriptions

Students will develop skills in written and oral communication. They will study the aspects of the target culture, such as art, music, and daily life, and learn to compare their native culture with the culture of the target language. The target language will be used throughout the course, and students will be encouraged to use the target language to communicate with their teacher and peers. Students will progress through Foreign Language according to the chart below.



French or Spanish A

Students in this beginning level course will start to develop skills in written and oral communication. Technology and materials will incorporate a variety of sources and include native speakers and writers from a number of target language countries. Students will begin to develop conversational skills. They will begin studying aspects of the target culture, such as art, music, and daily life, and learn to compare their native culture with the culture of the target language. The target language will be used throughout

the course, and the students will be encouraged to use the target language to communicate with their teacher and peers. The content covered in this course is equal to that of 1st semester of Level I.

French or Spanish B

Students in this beginning level course will continue to develop skills in written and oral communication. Technology and materials incorporate a variety of sources and include native speakers and writers from a number of target language countries. Students will continue to develop conversational skills. They will study aspects of the target culture, such as art, music, and daily life, and learn to compare their native culture with the culture of the target language. The target language will be used throughout the course, and the students will be encouraged to use the target language to communicate with their teacher and peers. The content covered in this course is equal to that of 2nd semester of Level I.

French or Spanish I

Students in this beginning level course will start to develop skills in written and oral communication. Technology and materials incorporate a variety of sources and include native speakers and writers from a number of target language countries. Students will begin to develop conversational skills. They will begin studying aspects of the target culture, such as art, music, and daily life, and learn to compare their native culture with the culture of the target language. The target language will be used throughout the course, and the students will be encouraged to use the target language to communicate with their teacher and peers.

French or Spanish II

Students in this course will continue to develop skills toward proficiency in written and oral communication. Technology and materials incorporate a variety of authentic sources and include native speakers and writers from a number of target language countries in order to develop listening and reading skills. Students will have the opportunity to develop conversational skills in natural settings. They will study aspects of the target culture, such as art, music, and daily life, and learn to compare their native culture with the culture of the target language. The target language will be used throughout the course, and the students will use the target language to communicate with their teacher and peers.

French or Spanish III

For students who are currently taking Foreign Language II, by the end of this year we will assess where the students are. For students who are recommended to go to Spanish III, the curriculum will be slightly different. We will start the school year by reviewing and reinforcing the skills from their Foreign Language II curriculum that the students need so they have a solid foundation of the second language. We will then begin the Foreign Language III curriculum and take the students as far as they can go. We are not guaranteeing completion of level III as at this point we are unsure what skills the students will need. The Foreign Language III curriculum is challenging, and we want to insure that our students are developmentally and academically prepared for the additional rigor. *Students who continue will be enrolled in Foreign Language III with the understanding that we will make a recommendation for each child as to where they should be placed the following year.*