

ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS
2008-2009
DMS

ATHLETICS / HEALTH / PHYSICAL EDUCATION

COURSE: Athletics 7th (Full year elective)

GRADE: 7

PREREQUISITE: None

DESCRIPTION: This course provides the student with the opportunity to participate in competitive sports. Athletics fulfills the one-year physical education requirement for middle school students but is not intended to be taken instead of P.E. It is expected that students who sign up for Athletics must participate in one of our selected teams as well as develop the proper attitude and work ethic that it takes to be a contributing team member. Students not making a selected team must participate in one our two (2) no-cut sports. Boys will participate in either football or cross-country while girls may participate in either volleyball or cross-country. Students will be required to attend the games or meets for the entire season. Students wishing only to attempt to make the track team must enroll for the entire year. A student enrolled in Athletics must participate in one (1) of the first semester sports for the full season in order to satisfy enrollment in Athletics. The selected teams are as follows: basketball, track, or volleyball. **BEFORE** and/or **AFTER** school practices, as well as game attendance, is required for those students making the selected team. Any athlete not participating in, or meeting, the aforementioned requirements the first semester will not be allowed to re-enroll for the second semester.

COURSE: Athletics 8th (Full year elective)

GRADE: 8

PREREQUISITE: Coaches Approval – Students must have completed the course requirements for Grade 7 Athletics

DESCRIPTION: This course provides the student with the opportunity to participate in competitive sports. Athletics fulfills the one-year physical education requirement but is not intended to be taken instead of P.E. It is expected that students who sign up for athletics must participate in one of our selected teams as well as develop the proper attitude and work ethic that it takes to be a contributing team member. Students not making a selected team must participate in one of our two (2) no-cut sports. Boys will participate in either football or cross-country while girls may participate in either

volleyball or cross-country. Students will be required to attend the games or meets for the entire season. Students wishing only to attempt to make the track team may enroll only for the second semester but must have met the course requirements as a 7th grader. A student enrolled in Athletics must participate in one of the first semester sports for the full season in order to satisfy enrollment in Athletics. The selected teams are as follows: basketball, track, or volleyball. **BEFORE** and/or **AFTER** school practices, as well as game attendance, is required for those students making the selected team. Any athlete not participating in, or meeting, the aforementioned requirements the first semester will not be allowed to re-enroll for the second semester.

COURSE: Physical Education (Full-year or Semester elective)

GRADE: 7 / 8

PREREQUISITE: None

DESCRIPTION: Physical Education involves achieving and maintaining the optimal physical, mental, emotional and social well-being of the individual. Activities will include team-based sports as well as individual challenges. Physical education is the area for students to engage in activities that are non-competitive. Lifelong activities are learned to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Participating in healthy physical activity and practicing healthful behavior are the goals of the physical education program.

COURSE: Health* (Semester elective)

GRADE: 8

PREREQUISITE: None

DESCRIPTION: This course is designed to provide knowledge and understanding of the following areas: lifetime fitness, communicable diseases, mental health, drugs, alcohol and tobacco, safety and emergency procedures, first aid, body systems and environmental health. Students will receive .5 High School credit after successfully completing this course. (Note: End-of-course grade must be 70 or above to receive High School credit.)

***1/2 High School Credit**

FINE ARTS

COURSE: Art I (Semester elective)

GRADE: 7 / 8

PREREQUISITE: None

DESCRIPTION: An introductory course that explores different art materials with a focus on the roles of observation, imagination, and innovation in the world of art. Students will build a starting set of skills in drawing, painting, collage, printmaking, and sculpture that will draw from the principles and elements of design, technology, art history, and world culture.

LAB FEE WILL BE REQUIRED

COURSE: Art II (Semester elective)

GRADE: 7 / 8

PREREQUISITE: Art I

DESCRIPTION: An intermediate class that explores different art materials that focuses on design, jobs in art, and student exploration. Students will use drawing, painting, sculpture, pottery, computers, and mixed media (more than one type of material) to create, learn, and understand art and the role art plays in our society.

LAB FEE WILL BE REQUIRED

COURSE: Art III (Semester elective)

GRADE: 8

PREREQUISITE: Art I and Art II

DESCRIPTION: A preparatory class for students going into high school art that expands upon the concepts covered in Art II. Students will keep and build on a portfolio of work that focuses on chosen material, complex themes, historical importance, and self-expression. In this class, students will be exposed to beginnings of the critique process, artistic problem solving, and the role art plays in their life as a starting artist.

LAB FEE WILL BE REQUIRED

COURSE: Band (**Full-year** elective)

GRADE: 7

PREREQUISITE: None

DESCRIPTION: The performance of band and solo literature is the purpose of this course. Students are divided into bands through individual auditions based on skill level. Emphasis is placed on developing good fundamental musicianship. Students have numerous opportunities to try out for honor bands and other competitions in the area.

FEES WILL BE REQUIRED

COURSE: Band (**Full-year** elective)

GRADE: 8

PREREQUISITE: None

DESCRIPTION: The performance of band and solo literature is the purpose of this course. Students are divided into bands through individual auditions based on skill level. Emphasis is placed on developing good fundamental musicianship. Students have numerous opportunities to try out for honor bands and other competitions in the area.

FEES WILL BE REQUIRED

COURSE: Treble Choir 7th Grade Girls (**Full-year** elective)

GRADE: 7

PREREQUISITE: None

DESCRIPTION: This is a performance-based choir that emphasizes the development of good musicianship, sight-reading, vocal, and choral skills. Students will perform varied repertoire and musical styles. There will be 3 – 4 evening performances per year. Students will have the opportunity to audition for area honor choirs and other competitions.

FEES MAY BE REQUIRED

COURSE: Treble Choir 8th Grade Girls (**Full-year** elective)

GRADE: 8

PREREQUISITE: None

DESCRIPTION: This is a performance-based choir that emphasizes the development of good musicianship, sight-reading, vocal, and choral skills. Students will perform varied repertoire and musical styles. There will be 3 – 4 evening performances per year. Students will have the opportunity to audition for area honor choirs and other competitions.

FEES MAY BE REQUIRED

COURSE: Boys Choir (**Full-year** elective)

GRADE: 7 / 8

PREREQUISITE: None

DESCRIPTION: This is a performance-based choir that emphasizes the development of good musicianship, sight-reading, vocal, and choral skills. Students will perform varied repertoire and musical styles. There will be 3 – 4 evening performances per year. Students will have the opportunity to audition for area honor choirs and participate in other competitions.

FEES MAY BE REQUIRED

COURSE: Theatre Arts I (Semester elective)

GRADE: 7 & 8

PREREQUISITE: None

DESCRIPTION: This course is activity centered to help students acquire lifelong skills such as critical thinking, self-discipline, group cooperation, sensory and emotional awareness and self-confidence. Units of study include Self-Perception and The Actor's Tools.

COURSE: Theatre Arts II (Semester elective)

GRADE: 7 & 8

PREREQUISITE: Theatre Arts I

DESCRIPTION: This course is for students who would like to further their study of theatre. Emphasis will be placed on technical theatre, including scenic, costume, property, lighting, sound, publicity, and make up design for the stage.

COURSE: Theatre Arts III (full year – Application required)

GRADE: 8

PREREQUISITE: Theatre Arts I and Teacher Approval

DESCRIPTION: This course is modeled after the high school Master Class program. Students will focus intensively on various acting styles, technical theatre elements, and theatre production. Students will relate theatre to history, society, and culture, and they will learn to critically interpret play scripts. Students will be expected to participate in productions, speech tournaments/festivals, and One-Act Play Festival.

FEES MAY BE REQUIRED

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

COURSE: Spanish I* (Full-year elective)

GRADE: 8

PREREQUISITE: None

DESCRIPTION: Spanish I is a fast-paced high school credit class with emphasis on fundamental vocabulary, spelling, and grammatical structure while building proficiency in the four basic skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking. Strong memorization and study skills are essential for this class.

***High School Credit (1 credit) (Grade earned in this class will be part of students' high school GPA)**

FEES MAY BE REQUIRED

HOME ECONOMICS

COURSE: Home Economics I (Semester elective)

GRADE: 7 / 8

PREREQUISITE: None

DESCRIPTION: Students will be introduced to the basic principle of clothing construction techniques as well as food and nutrition. Through completion of a sewing project, students will be able to demonstrate the ability to select fabric, use and care for sewing equipment, and learn simple sewing techniques. Students will also explore nutrition facts and food preparation techniques. Various food labs will introduce students to the importance of safety, sanitation, time management and food preparation. Leadership skills, self-discipline and problem-solving skills are emphasized throughout the course. Child development and consumer management will also be explored.

APPROXIMATE SUPPLY COST: \$15

COURSE: Home Economics II (Semester elective)

GRADE: 7/8

PREREQUISITE: Home Economics I

DESCRIPTION: This course is designed to offer students the opportunity to improve on skills learned in Home Economics I. Students will further explore nutrition through experiments and labs. Food preparation techniques will be more advanced in order to give students the opportunity to gain more confidence and improve their cooking skills. In the clothing construction unit, students will select a project that will enhance and improve their sewing skills by making a garment. Routine clothing care, basic laundry techniques and clothing repair will also be the focus of the clothing unit. The goal of this course is to enhance the skills students have already gained and introduce them to new skills in Home Economics. Child development and consumer management will also be explored.

APPROXIMATE SUPPLY COST: \$20

COURSE: Clothing/Quilting (Semester elective)

GRADE: 8

PREREQUISITE: Home Economics I

DESCRIPTION: Students interested in improving their sewing skills will enjoy selecting their own project and sewing a garment. Students will learn more advanced sewing techniques and improve their ability to read a pattern. Individual problem solving will be stressed in order to give students the skills necessary to sew independently. The goal of this course is to give students the skills necessary to sew successfully and independently while increasing their appreciation of the field of Home Economics. The curriculum will include quilting. Students will make a small quilt.

APPROXIMATE SUPPLY COST: \$35-\$50 depending on student's choice of projects.

TECHNOLOGY

COURSE: Keyboarding and Beyond (Semester elective)

GRADE: 7 / 8

PREREQUISITE: None

DESCRIPTION: Keyboarding is an introductory course where students develop touch-typing skills with an emphasis on speed and accuracy. Elements of Microsoft Word and the construction of letters are included. Students will complete a career planning assessment to help develop their future.

COURSE: Media Mania (Semester elective)

GRADE: 8

PREREQUISITE: Keyboarding

DESCRIPTION: Beginners, intermediates and experts will create notepads, brochures, programs, flyers, and business cards using Microsoft Office. Students will learn to use PhotoShop Elements to edit and manipulate photos to include in projects. Students will learn how to design and create a personal web page using SharePoint Designer.

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

COURSE: Journalism (Semester elective)

GRADE: 7& 8

PREREQUISITE: None

DESCRIPTION: The first half of this course deals with the basics of journalism. Students become familiar with newspaper terminology, the first amendment, journalistic responsibilities, ethics and trends, as well as the parts of a newspaper and how a newspaper is structured. Students will also learn a little about the history of journalism, including a short unit on investigative reporting (including a viewing of the film “All the President’s Men”), and they learn proper interview techniques. The second half of the course introduces students to writing copy, advertising techniques, creating a class newspaper and design layouts, and producing a full-length profile.

COURSE: Photojournalism (Semester elective)

GRADE: 7 & 8

PREREQUISITE: Must be willing to attend before and/or after-school activities if/when requested.

DESCRIPTION: Students will learn the fundamentals of photojournalism, i.e. how the picture captures and augments the breaking news story, the human interest feature, and any of a dozen other kinds of articles, as well as the basics of photography Including composition, perspective, light, shadow, overlapping, rule of thirds, and so forth. By first viewing the work of Ansel Adams and other renowned photographers, students will gain insight as to what constitutes a truly good news photograph and will then begin taking their own photographs in an effort to reproduce the quality they have been studying. This course deals strictly with digital camera technology, so students will gain hands-on experience using digital imaging software (Adobe Photoshop 7) and will become well versed in the techniques of taking digital photographs, uploading them to the computer, transferring them electronically, and editing their photos.

Note: Students must supply their own digital camera, USB cord, and batteries. The small lab fee covers replacement batteries, memory cards photographic paper, and costs associated with producing.

LAB FEE: \$10

****STUDENTS MUST HAVE THEIR OWN DIGITALCAMERA (not disposable or advanced photo system) IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COURSE. ****

COURSE: Yearbook * (Full year elective)

GRADE: 7 & 8

PREREQUISITE: Application, interview with teacher, Journalism, Newspaper, or Photojournalism

DESCRIPTION: This course is designed for highly motivated, independent and creative individuals who wish to create and design the school yearbook. Students must meet strict deadlines and work before, during, and after school. Students should also have strong writing skills. Students will learn about page layout, photography selection, caption and copy writing, and more as they create each individual page of the yearbook using Jostens publication design on-line software. All work is computer generated.

***SUMMER CAMP ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY.**

SUPPLIES REQUIRED: High-resolution digital camera with at least 4.5 megapixels

COURSE: Newspaper (Full year elective)

GRADE: 7 / 8

PREREQUISITE: Application, teacher approval, Journalism students preferred **or** students with a strong writing background.

DESCRIPTION: This course should be a follow-up to Journalism. This course is designed for highly motivated writers who wish to create and design the DMS newspaper, "The Incendiary Insight." This papers comes out approximately every three weeks, so students must meet strict deadlines and be willing to work before and after school, if necessary. Students will learn more complex journalism skills such as design and page layout, personal interviewing, and advanced editorial writing.

STUDENT ENRICHMENT COURSES

COURSE: Peer Assistance Leaders (PALs) (Full year elective)

GRADE: 8

PREREQUISITE: Application and Selection Through Interview

DESCRIPTION: The Peer Assistance and Leadership Program (PALs) is a peer-helping program in which selected 8th graders are trained in leadership, organizational skills and community service. Students will be required to spend time outside regular school days on specific projects. A student must apply and go through a selection process to be allowed to enroll in this class.

EXPLORATORY SCIENCES

COURSE: Oceanography (Semester elective)

GRADE: 7 & 8

PREREQUISITE: None

DESCRIPTION: This course will introduce students to this physical science in an interactive and exploratory manner. Students will have a hands-on experience with the delicate balance in marine environments as well as an introduction into several related professions. Students will also be introduced to an environmental science component where they will learn about the field of nature conservation. Students will become actively involved in current world environmental issues such as rainforest depletion, endangered animals and sources of pollution. Local data collection will include students taking air, water and soil samples, which will be analyzed and compared with other areas of the world. Animal population studies will also be organized to examine the effects of the urban growth in our area.

LAB FEE REQUIRED

COURSE: Animal Science (Semester elective)

GRADE: 7& 8

PREREQUISITE: None

DESCRIPTION: This course will introduce students to an in-depth investigation of Zoology. Students will interact with a wide variety of living and nonliving specimens while making scientific observations and applying metric measurement skills to monitor growth of organisms. This course will also focus on classification schemes, dissections (anatomical studies) and the study of microorganisms.

LAB FEE REQUIRED