

**ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**  
**2010-2011**  
**DMS**

**ATHLETICS / HEALTH / PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

**COURSE:** Athletics 7<sup>th</sup> (Full year elective)

**GRADE:** 7

**PREREQUISITE:** All students in Athletics must have an approved physical exam and UIL paperwork on file each year. All students in athletics must have primary insurance supplied by their parent(s).

**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 8<sup>th</sup> (Full year elective)

**GRADE:** 8

**PREREQUISITE:** Coaches Approval; All students in Athletics must have an approved physical exam and UIL paperwork on file each year. All students in athletics must have primary insurance supplied by their parent(s).

**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 7<sup>th</sup> 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.)

**\*½ 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:** At least a semester of band from EIS or previous school

**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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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:** Men's 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 will also be explored.

**APPROXIMATE SUPPLY COST:** \$15-\$25

**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. Consumer management will also be explored.

**APPROXIMATE SUPPLY COST:** \$20-\$30

**COURSE:** Clothing/Quilting (Semester elective)

**GRADE:** 8

**PREREQUISITE:** Home Economics I

**DESCRIPTION:** Students interested in improving their sewing skills will enjoy selecting their own projects 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:** Business Success - (Semester elective)

**GRADE:** 7/8

**PREREQUISITE:** None

**DESCRIPTION:**

Business success is an introductory course that will allow students to explore careers, learn business techniques and qualities that will prepare them for the future. Keyboarding applications will be practiced throughout the semester. Technology applications will be used such as the Microsoft Office Suite to develop business plans. Students will also complete a career assessment to assist in career planning to better prepare them for success in the modern world.

**COURSE:** Media Mania (Semester elective)

**GRADE:** 7/8

**PREREQUISITE:** None

**DESCRIPTION:** Beginners, intermediates and experts will create notepads, brochures, programs, flyers, and business cards using Microsoft Office. Students will complete a career planning assessment to discover an individualized career plan that includes an understanding of career possibilities. PhotoShop Elements will be taught and students will edit and manipulate photos to include in projects, as well as design their own photo creations. Students will learn how to design and create web pages using SharePoint Designer. Keyboarding skills will be practiced throughout the course.

**COURSE:** Media Mania II (Semester elective)

**GRADE:** 8

**PREREQUISITE:** Business Success and Media Mania

**DESCRIPTION:**

Media Mania II is an extension to the technology classes now being offered. This class includes Video Game Design that will provide an opportunity for students to engage in real world interaction while learning math, language, science, and technology. Students love for video games creates an exciting platform for learning. Critical thinking and problem solving skills will be gained through a venue that you love. The inclusion of this curriculum in the technology classroom will enhance every aspect of your education by making learning relevant to you. There is no limit to what you can learn, while creating something that is fun.

If you have already taken Business Success and Media Mania and would like to learn to program your own video game, you are the perfect student for this class.

## STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

**COURSE:** Journalism/Newspaper (Full year elective)

**GRADE:** 7 & 8

**PREREQUISITE:** Application, good writing skills; familiarity with Word Publisher and In-Design CS4 a definite plus

**DESCRIPTION:** This course deals with the basics of journalism and producing a school newspaper. 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”), proper interview techniques, and advertising techniques. Interspersed throughout the course students will have on-the-job-training as they write copy, learn basic newspaper layout, and become familiar with feature writing and photo uploads as they create the school newspaper for school-wide distribution 2-3 times a semester.

**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 and accessories.* **LAB FEE: \$10**

**COURSE:** Yearbook \* (Full year elective)

**GRADE:** 7 & 8

**PREREQUISITE:** Application, interview with teacher, Journalism, Newspaper, or Photojournalism a plus

**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 if the teacher and deadlines require it. Students should also have strong photographic and 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 Taylor Publishing's StudioWorks on-line program. All work is computer generated.

**\*NOTE: An all-day Saturday workshop and/or a late-summer mini-workshop may be required. Be prepared to attend!**

**COURSE:** Newspaper (Full year elective)

**GRADE:** 7 / 8

**NOW COMBINED WITH JOURNALISM**

### **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 8<sup>th</sup> 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**