

ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS
2011-2012
DMS

ATHLETICS / HEALTH / PHYSICAL EDUCATION

COURSE: Athletics 7th (Full year elective)

GRADE: 7

PREREQUISITE: None

REQUIREMENTS: 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 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 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

REQUIREMENTS: 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 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 combines comprehensive and accurate health information with real-life application of the health skills. This allows students to apply what they learn in health class toward developing healthy behaviors throughout their lives.

The following areas will be covered: Living a Healthy Life, Building Health Skills and Character, Being a Health-Literate Consumer, Nutrition and Your Health, Achieving Good Mental Health, Managing Stress and Anxiety, Mental and emotional Problems, Skills for Healthy Relationships, Family Relationships, Peer Relationships, Adolescence and the Life Cycle, Tobacco, Alcohol, Medicines and Drugs, Communicable Diseases, Sexually Transmitted Infections and HIV/AIDS, First Aid/CPR/AED Training, 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: 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: CHOIR (Full year Elective)

GRADE: 7/8

PREREQUISITE: None

DESCRIPTION: The goal of the DMS choir program is to introduce and develop student's musical knowledge and ability through use of the voice. Each choir is a performance group that will participate in a number of formal and informal concerts. Students will work to develop skills in sight-reading, vocal production, critical listening. Students will have the opportunity to perform individually as well as with an ensemble. Before and/or after school rehearsals are required for all members of the DMS Dragon Choir.

Women's Choir (All Year)

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 formal performances and several informal concert opportunities during the year. Students will travel to perform in region UIL and Hurricane Harbor Contest. Students also have the opportunity to participate in All-Region choir auditions and UIL Solo and Ensemble contest.

FEES WILL BE REQUIRED

Men's Choir (All Year)

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 formal performances and several informal concert opportunities during the year. Students will travel to perform in region UIL and Hurricane Harbor Contest. Students also have the opportunity to participate in All-Region choir auditions and UIL Solo and Ensemble contest.

FEES WILL 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: \$50 LAB FEE 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. Students will adhere to the CISD High School Foreign Language grading policy (no late work accepted, no quiz/test retakes).

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

FEES MAY BE REQUIRED

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE

COURSE: Interior Design (Semester)

GRADE: 7 / 8

PREREQUISITE: None

DESCRIPTION: Interior Design is a technical course that addresses psychological, physiological, and sociological needs of individuals by enhancing the environments in which they live and work. Individuals use knowledge and skills related to interior and exterior environments, construction, and furnishings to make wise consumer decisions, increase productivity, and compete in industry.

LAB FEE: \$15

COURSE: Money Management (Semester)

GRADE: 7/8

PREREQUISITE: None

DESCRIPTION: Money Management focuses on consumer practices and responsibilities, the money management process, decision-making skills, impact of technology, and preparation for human services careers.

COURSE: Lifetime Nutrition and Wellness (Semester)

GRADE: 7/8

PREREQUISITE: None

DESCRIPTION: This laboratory course allows students to use principles of lifetime wellness and nutrition to help them make informed choices that promote wellness as well as pursue careers related to hospitality and tourism, education and training, human services, and health sciences.

LAB FEE: \$15

TECHNOLOGY

COURSE: Business Success (Semester elective)

GRADE: 7 / 8

PREREQUISITE: None

DESCRIPTION: Business Success is an introductory course where students develop touch-typing skills with an emphasis on speed and accuracy. Microsoft Word, Publisher, Excel, and Sharepoint will be used to create such things as, letters, brochures, business cards, resumes, websites, etc.... Students will complete a career planning assessment to help develop their future.

COURSE: Media Mania I (Semester elective)

GRADE: 7 & 8

PREREQUISITE: None

DESCRIPTION: Beginners, intermediates and experts will create brochures, programs, flyers, and posters using Microsoft Office. Students main focus will be to 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.

COURSE: Media Mania II (Semester elective)

GRADE: 8

PREREQUISITE: Business Success or 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 or Media Mania and would like to learn to program your own video game, you are the perfect student for this class.

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

COURSE: Broadcast Journalism (Full Year Elective)

GRADE: 7& 8

PREREQUISITE: Application, good writing skills; familiarity with video and Flip cameras a plus.

DESCRIPTION: This course is new and as of spring 2011 is still in its early stages of development. The basis of the course will involve electronic media, and will cover many aspects of news and entertainment media. Units of study will include a history of multi-media, the use of video cameras, interviewing techniques, parts of a school news broadcast (including school news, sports, academics, community events, entertainment, etc.), careers in media, commercials, talk shows, and public service announcements. The potential for doing an on-line news service, a scrolling marquee, video announcements, and other forms of public information are all included in this course.

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: \$25

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!**

STUDENT ENRICHMENT COURSES

COURSE: Teen Leadership (Semester)

GRADE: 7/8

PREREQUISITE: None

DESCRIPTION: Students will work towards developing a healthy self-concept, healthy relationships, and a sense of personal responsibility. Through the course, students will build skills in public speaking and communication as well as an understanding of personal image. Students will also develop an understanding of principle-based decision-making and learn to make responsible personal and financial decisions.

EXPLORATORY SCIENCES

COURSE: Aquatic Science (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