



Middle School Elective Course Descriptions

6th Grade P.E.

This program heavily incorporates cooperation in team activities and utilizes dynamic movements to improve coordination, agility, balance, and reaction time. The 6th grade curriculum is meant to prepare the students to properly adapt to the challenges of 7th and 8th grade PE classes.

6th Grade Technology

Students will demonstrate understanding of basic technology concepts and will master basic operations in applications such as Word®, PowerPoint®, and Excel®. Students will also further their typing skills.

6th Grade Expressive Communications

Expressive Communications is a class designed to allow students to explore different ways to express themselves. Students will be instructed on and then asked to participate in a variety of speeches, debates, and skits. Other activities (i.e., study skills) will also be discussed and evaluated.

6th Grade Math Assist

This class is designed to assist students that need extra support or enrichment in math. The math teacher will be available to review past concepts as well as assist with current material. Students will also have time to work on homework each day.

6th-8th Grade Art

Students in art are given opportunities to develop their creativity through several mediums. Students will learn a variety of two and three-dimensional techniques including painting, drawing, collage, printmaking, and sculpting.

6th-8th Grade Band

Students learn techniques, form and analysis, music history and composers, with continued emphasis on performance. Students will participate in performances as well as band festivals and competitions.

6th-8th Grade Choir

Students learn vocalization, music theory and composition, self-evaluation and analysis, performance, and music history. The students will participate in performances as well as choral festivals and competitions.

6th-8th Grade Drama

Students will engage in learning experiences that will enhance their ability to perform on stage. They will learn costuming, make-up, staging, reader's theatre, lighting, and various components of theatre production. Students will also be involved in one performance each semester. Occasional Saturday rehearsals may be required.

7th-8th Grade PE/Weight Training

The upper middle school PE curriculum focuses on a holistic approach to wellness. Dynamic movement is incorporated every day to improve coordination, balance and agility. An individualized weightlifting program is designed for each student to improve strength, decrease stress, and prevent injuries. Students are taught lifetime wellness skills to be taken well past their middle and high school years.

7th-8th Grade Introduction to Coding/Web Design

Students will learn digital citizenship, coding, programming, gamification, and explore how media software is used in video and web mediums. Students will demonstrate proficiency using coding software and common software applications.

8th Grade Robotic and Forensic Technology

The objective of this introductory robotic and forensic technology course is to introduce the student to basic robotic programming, problem solving strategies, examination of forensic materials, and data collection methods. Robotics programs teach students how to approach real-world problems in an innovative, yet systematic, way. Forensic science teaches students to discover how clues and data are recorded and preserved and examine some of the basic scientific principles that guide laboratory processes like DNA testing, fingerprinting, and material analysis.

7th-8th Grade Journalism

Students will learn various components of editorial and publishing skills while engaging in formal and informal writing. They will compose various types of fiction and nonfiction stories and create works that depict facts, options, and ideas. Activities will also include public speaking, interviewing, broadcasting announcements, and publishing quarterly newsletters.

7th-8th Grade Sign Language

Students will be introduced to the ASL alphabet, numbers, hand position, signing technique, inflection and expression, deaf culture manners, fingerspelling, directional signs, introductory phrases and words, and helpful questions and statements. Multiple sign language projects will be completed each semester.

7th-8th Grade Math Assist

This class is designed to assist students that need extra support in math. The math teacher will be available to review past concepts as well as assist with current material and/or provide enrichment. Students will also have time to work on homework each day.

**Note: Students who receive a 69 or below for the school year or receive below the threshold on the IOWA will automatically be placed in this class for at least one semester.*

7th-8th Grade Expressive Communications/Study Hall

Expressive Communications is a class designed to allow students to explore different ways to express themselves. Students will be instructed on and then asked to participate in a variety of speeches, debates, presentations, and skits. Other activities (i.e., study skills) will also be discussed and evaluated. Students will have Expressive Communications concepts for half the class and have the other half of the class as a study hall to work on schoolwork each day.