

8TH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

YEAR-LONG PERFORMANCE MUSIC CLASSES:

BAND This year-long class is designed to prepare students for high school instrumental playing, as well as increase musical understanding through performance. There are increased performance opportunities at this level. Students enrolling in 8th grade band should have three years of playing experience through school classes or private lessons. Band students may also sign up for choir, if they are performing sufficiently above grade level. Continued rotation is subject to a successful review at the end of the first trimester.

CHOIR Choir is a performance group open to all students and is devoted to the study and performance of music from a wide spectrum of styles. The class includes an introduction to fundamental singing techniques. Choir is a year-long class.

ORCHESTRA This year-long class is designed to prepare students for high school instrumental playing as well as increase musical understanding through performance. There are increased performance opportunities at this level. Students enrolling in 8th grade Orchestra should have three years of playing experience through school classes or private lessons. Orchestra students may also sign up for choir, if they are performing sufficiently above grade level. Continued rotation is subject to a successful review at the end of the first trimester.

TWELVE-WEEK ROTATION CLASSES:

ART 8 Students survey the basic artistic elements of drawing, painting, and color theory. Students learn to communicate at a basic level in two-dimensional and three-dimensional art. Through hands-on work and study they design and produce basic analyses of works of art. Students are introduced to exemplary works of art from a variety of cultures and historical periods.

ART II 8 Art II is designed for students who enjoy art and want to enhance their skill with a community of similarly interested artists. Students learn to use various painting and drawing media and acquire the skills necessary to create works of their own. Students complete projects, which emphasize the specific design elements of line, shape, space, color, and value. Students also produce several projects in clay and sculpture through which they learn about form, function, and construction techniques.

CERAMICS 8 Ceramics class provides students with an experience in clay, both hand-built and wheel thrown. Students will explore throwing functional ware on the Potter's wheel coil method, slab construction and sculpting. In addition, students will learn proper studio use and maintenance. Students will study beginning glazing and firing techniques.

CODING 8 Students learn general computer science topics, analyze the physical components of computers, and develop and apply computer-coding skills. Students will become familiar with coding concepts such as variables, loops and functions, etc. and will apply those concepts in numerous ways.

DESIGN & MODELING Students apply the design process to solve problems and understand the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They work individually, in teams, and in groups to design homes, furniture, puzzles, and keychains. Students will capture research and ideas detailing the design process. Using Sketchup design software, students create a virtual image of their designs and will have the opportunity to 3D print their designs.

THEATRE/DRAMA

There is more to a production than acting! In this class, students will prepare a show from start to finish focusing on all aspects of production including directing, set and costume design, acting and lighting.

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE Healthy eating and nutrition are taught with a hands-on emphasis. Students learn basic cooking skills and how to make healthy food choices by preparing and eating healthy recipes. Managing money, making financial decisions, and career exploration are also taught. Class utilizes sewing machines to construct a project.

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE II (World Culture & Cuisine). This course introduces various world cultures through independent student research and presentations. Part of the research component includes learning about authentic foods of the culture. Students prepare and sample ethnic dishes from around the world. Bring an open mind and be ready to try new foods if you choose to take this class! FCS I is not a prerequisite.

INFORMATION SKILLS 8 (College, Career and Community Ready Focus)

In this 12-week project-based course, students will explore College, Career and Community Opportunities through the *Montana Career and Information Service Database*, and by interacting with guest presenters speaking about local job opportunities, apprenticeships, two-year colleges, four-year colleges, and studying abroad. After researching various topics, students will create digital projects such as budget spreadsheets, resumes, career exploration presentations, and career portfolios.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION 8 (Engineering Design, Construction, Fluid Dynamics and Electronics) Students continue to develop their understanding of the engineering design process, and design and build a project of their choosing with provided materials. Students research fluid dynamics concepts and use that information to design and build a toy boomerang. Basic electronics topics are covered and students build a small electronics kit. Students will be using power tools to build their projects in a shop setting and safety topics are extensively covered and modeled for the students.

VIDEO PRODUCTION AND PHOTOGRAPHY 8 This course is an introduction to film making, and an introduction to graphic design using technology as a tool to learn and explore concepts related to both topics. Students will learn Photoshop skills and learn how to manipulate photos while looking at Photoshop as a tool for graphic design to create at least one short, 3 to 5 minute movie.

WORLD MUSIC 8 An active music class exploring the cultures of the world through music. Students play drums, percussion instruments, listen, read, and compose music through the study of Africa, Latin America, Asia, American Jazz and Native North America. At the end of our instructional time together we have a performance and cultural potluck.

WORLD LANGUAGE French, German and Spanish Students will develop communication skills, vocabulary, cultural knowledge and global awareness through songs, videos, games, readings, and hands-on activities. The 8th grade language course is equivalent to the level 1 course at the High School. Students who are proficient in a world language by the end of 8th grade may enroll in level 2 World Language at the High School.