

8th GRADE ELECTIVE 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.

CHOIR: This year-long class covers a variety of musical styles and increases understanding through musical performance. Students progress in vocal technique, the ability to sing independent harmonies, and proficiency at music reading.

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.

TWELVE-WEEK ROTATION CLASSES:

ART 8: Calling all artists. In 8th-grade art, students explore 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 exploration, they design and produce basic analyses of works of art.

ART II 8: Art II is designed for students who enjoy art and want to enhance their skills 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 may produce projects in clay and sculpture through which they learn about form, function, and construction techniques.

CERAMICS 8 : Come get messy and discover your passion for clay. 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.

COMPUTER SCIENCE: 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.

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.

8th GRADE ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE II : 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.

COLLEGE, CAREER, COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY: 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.

TECH ED 8 : 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 & PHOTOGRAPHY: 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, sing, dance, 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.