

## 2019/20 MIDDLE SCHOOL EXPLORATORY COURSES

\*=prerequisite required before taking course

\*last update: 2.15.19

Course Name	Grade	Course Description 2019/2020
<b>Art</b>		
<a href="#">Art 3D</a>	6-8	Students in <b>3D</b> will explore the principles of design while creating three-dimensional artwork using a variety of art media.
<a href="#">Art Drawing and Design*</a>	6-8	<b>Drawing and Design</b> is a perfect choice for those students who have an interest in improving their drawing and design skills through a variety of drawing techniques. Students will also learn how to create more interesting compositions through the use of design. <b>*Prerequisite:</b> Art FUNdamentals
<a href="#">Art FUNdamentals</a>	6-8	<b>Art FUNdamentals</b> is designed for students who have an interest in exploring art. This class will focus on learning about how to use the elements and principles of art and design while exploring a variety of art media.
<a href="#">Art Hobbies</a>	6-8	<b>Art Hobbies</b> is designed for students who want to explore a variety of art forms, many of which could lead to a lifelong hobby or even a business venture. Possible projects could include weaving, jewelry making, stamp making, paper making, and soft sculpture.
<a href="#">Art Painting and Mixed Media*</a>	6-8	<b>Painting and Mixed Media</b> is designed for students who have an interest in playing with color and a wide range of art materials with the goal of improving their painting skills through a variety of painting styles. Students will also learn how to use other materials in their projects to create interesting works of art.. <b>*Prerequisite:</b> Art FUNdamentals
<b>Computer Science</b> <a href="#">video link for all CS courses</a>		
CS Advanced Computing*	6-8	<b>Advanced Computing</b> takes coding to the next level. Students will create phone apps and well as programming light displays. Also, we will learn code to control smart devices. <b>*Prerequisite:</b> Web design or Animations & Games
CS Animations and Games	6-8	Gamers rejoice! In <b>Animations and Games</b> , students will program animations, interactive art, and games using the block coding method. The course starts off with simple shapes and builds up to more sophisticated sprite-based games, using the same programming concepts and the design process computer scientists use daily. In the final project, students will develop a personalized, interactive program.
CS Elements of Design	6-8	Let your creativity shine! <b>Elements of Design</b> course allows students to dig into the concepts of graphic design. Students will understand design concept and use a variety of programs to draw and create. We will draw animations, work with painting tools, use CAD-type of programs to draw houses, create small movies and more.
CS Project GUTS*	6-8	Student will use a variety of coding sites to make fun stories, animations, games and apps. Based and using code.org's Hour of Code, students will advance their coding skills in a fun and creative way. <b>*Prerequisite:</b> Web design or Animations & Games
CS Web Design	6-8	Looking for a way to express yourself? In <b>Web Design</b> students will learn how to create and share content on their own web pages. Using the rules of digital citizenship, students will learn how to structure and style their webpages using HTML and CSS. They will also practice valuable programming skills such as debugging and commenting. By the end of the course, students will have a personal website that they can publish to the Internet.
<i>English Language Arts</i>		
<a href="#">ELA: Literacy League</a>	6-8	Do you love to read and write? Do you wish you had time to work on independent projects with positive feedback? This course includes a fun workshop setting with authentic projects and pieces to inspire and encourage students who enjoy ELA. Activities may include: blackout poetry, writing contests, short story interpretation, reader's theater, word play, etc.

<a href="#">Presentation and Public Speaking</a>	6-8	Presentation and Public Speaking will help students become more comfortable speaking in front of small and large groups. Activities will include learning about the different types of communication, practicing public speaking in a variety of situations, reflecting on famous speeches, and exploring/creating TED talks. Students will also write and present up to four different types of speeches.
<a href="#">Theatre and Performance</a>	6-8	<b>Theatre and Performance</b> is an introduction to fundamental acting skills. Students learn movement, vocal control and characterization skills while participating in various activities that may include plays, improvisation, reader's theatre, impromptu, pantomime, and short scenes. Through these activities, students will learn physical and vocal presentation skills and develop basic knowledge of theatre arts. Evaluation will be based primarily on in-class performances.
<a href="#">ELA Foundations: Literacy Lab</a>	6-8	Do you wish you had more strategies to comprehend the reading assigned to you in class, including those long and sometimes hard-to-read informational texts in science and social studies? Do you need just a little more time to "fix and fancy" that piece of writing you're working on? Do you desire quiet time and space to read the things you enjoy, like magazines and graphic novels, without the scrutiny of your peers? <b>Literacy Lab</b> is designed for students like you, who could use extra time to linger in literacy, complete assignments, and get an extra boost to master grade-level content expectations.
<b>MATH</b>		
<a href="#">Math Challenge: Mathletes</a>	6-8	Are you an individual who excels in mathematics to the point where you <b>would enjoy a chance to solve 'bigger' math problems</b> ? If so, <b>Mathletes</b> is for you. Like all serious athletes, Mathletes flex their mathematical muscles through daily problem solving and real-world challenge problems in preparation for the big game. Through daily stretches, class competitions, warm ups and workouts, students get in tip top math shape and prepare to <b>perform at the next level when it comes to problem solving and future math experiences</b> .
<a href="#">Math Support: Math Matters</a>	6-8	Have you ever been in a math class that you wish would slow down or do a few more examples? <b>Math Matters</b> is designed to help students understand their homework (providing extra examples and help), work on basic facts (become quicker at mental math), and provide opportunities to practice and apply the math concepts they are learning in their core math class.
<b>Music</b>		
Band 6	6	<b>Band 6</b> is a year-long beginning band course where students develop basic skills in groups and the application of these skills in a full band setting. Students will perform in at least three concerts during the school year, and all performances are mandatory.
Band 7	7	<b>Band 7</b> is a year-long course where students continue working on ensemble team skills in a full band setting. Students perform in at least four concerts per year, and all performances are mandatory. Students will also have the option of taking part in Solo and Ensemble Festival and jazz band. <b>*Prerequisite:</b> Band 6 (or instructor permission)
Band 8	8	<b>Band 8</b> is a year-long course where students continue working on ensemble team skills in a full band setting. Students perform in at least six performances, including two marching opportunities and one trip. All performances are mandatory. Students will also have the option of taking part in Solo and Ensemble Festival as well as jazz band. <b>*Prerequisite:</b> Band 7 (or instructor permission)
Choir 6	6	<b>Choir 6</b> is a year-long beginning choral group where students develop basic vocal techniques and sight reading skills, as well as study music theory. Students will sing and perform a variety of styles of music. Required performances include the Fall, Winter, 6th Grade Showcase, and Spring Concerts in addition to one community event.
Choir 7	7	<b>Choir 7</b> is a year-long course where students develop healthy vocal techniques, sight reading skills, and study music theory in a full group setting. Many styles of music will be performed. Required performances include Fall, Winter, and Spring concerts, one community event, and District Choral Festival. Students also have the option of taking part in District Solo and Ensemble Festival. <b>*Prerequisite:</b> Choir 6 (or instructor permission)
Choir 8	8	<b>Choir 8</b> is a year-long course where students refine their vocal techniques, develop sight reading skills, and study music theory in a full group setting. Many styles of music will be performed. Required performances include the Fall, Winter, and Spring Concerts, one community event, and District Choral Festival. Students also have the option of taking part in District Solo and Ensemble Festival. <b>*Prerequisite:</b> Choir 7 (or instructor permission)
Orchestra 6	6	<b>Orchestra 6</b> is a year-long beginning orchestra where students develop basic skills and the application of these skills in a string orchestra setting. The orchestra will be scheduled to perform four times during the school year. These performances are required.

Orchestra 7	7	<p><b>Orchestra 7</b> is a year-long course where students apply their skills in a full group setting. The orchestra will be scheduled to perform four times during the school year. These performances are required. The students will also have the opportunity to take part in an optional Solo &amp; Ensemble Festival that takes place in late Winter/early Spring. <b>*Prerequisite:</b> Orchestra 6 (or instructor permission)</p>
Orchestra 8	8	<p><b>Orchestra 3</b> is a year-long course where students apply their skills in a full group setting. The orchestra will be scheduled to perform four times during the school year. These performances are required. The students will also have the opportunity to take part in an optional Solo &amp; Ensemble Festival that takes place in late Winter/early Spring. <b>*Prerequisite:</b> Orchestra 7 (or instructor permission)</p>
<b>Physical Education</b>		
Health and Wellness 7	7	<p><b>Health and Wellness 7</b> is a nine-week required course for seventh grade students that includes health topics and a fitness component. Course topics will include: nutrition; sexual harassment; adolescence, puberty, and reproduction; STI, HIV, AIDS and criminal sexual conduct laws; drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and vaping. An opportunity to attend an overview session of the health curriculum will be extended to parents at the Fall Open House. Parent permission will be required for the 2-week-long adolescence, puberty, and reproduction portion of the class.</p>
<a href="#">PE Maize and Blue</a>	6-8	<p>Students will receive instruction in rules, skills and strategies associated with different sports, as well as learning experiences involving physical conditioning activities and lifelong physical activities. The course promotes the spirit of cooperation, leadership, fair play and friendly competition.</p> <p><b>PE MAIZE:</b> Examples of activities which may be part of the course: tennis, golf, flag football, ultimate frisbee, biking, soccer, softball, gymnastics, weekly running and daily games.</p> <p><b>PE BLUE:</b> Examples of activities which may be part of the course: floor hockey, pickleball, volleyball, team handball, basketball, weight training, weekly running and daily games.</p>
<b>Science</b>		
<a href="#">Science Challenge: Science Olympiad</a>	6-8	<p>Do you excel in science? Are you a highly motivated student looking to be challenged beyond what your core science classes can offer? Are you a current member or considering joining the Science Olympiad team this year? If so, <b>Science Olympiad</b> is the challenge you are looking for. The Science Olympiad Elective is an extension of the Science Olympiad program and provides rigorous, standards-based challenges related to various scientific disciplines, including earth science, biology, chemistry, physics, and engineering. Through this course you will gain advanced scientific knowledge through individual research and advanced design challenges. <a href="https://www.soinc.org/">https://www.soinc.org/</a></p>
<a href="#">Discovery Science</a>	6-8	<p><b>Discovery Science</b> is a series of week-long projects that are designed with one thought in mind: allowing students to think. Students are pushed to be critical, analyze different solutions to problems, and create. Responsibility, communication, and teamwork are key elements that have a main focus throughout this 9-week class. Students use hands-on, problem solving situations to gain a better understanding of what engineers and scientists do on a daily basis. If you are looking to learn in a different way and use your brain to think, this class is for you. It might even knock your socks off.</p>
<b>SOCIAL STUDIES</b>		
<a href="#">Current Events 6</a>	6	<p>Do you want to learn more about the world around us while having fun at the same time? Are you interested in investigating the “fake news” created by bias in media? Then Current Events is the elective for you! In this project-based class, students use technology, competition, and collaboration to study current issues across the globe while considering both ELA and Social Studies curriculum. From politics to sports to popular culture, this class has something for everyone! Example projects include video newscasts, debate tournaments, podcasts, and much more!</p>
<a href="#">Current Events 7</a>	7	<p>Do you want to learn more about the world around us while having fun at the same time? Are you interested in investigating the “fake news” created by bias in media? Then Current Events is the elective for you! In this project-based class, students use technology, competition, and collaboration to study current issues across the globe while considering both ELA and Social Studies curriculum. From politics to sports to popular culture, this class has something for everyone! Example projects include video newscasts, debate tournaments, podcasts, and much more!</p>
<a href="#">Current Events 8</a>	8	<p>Do you want to learn more about the world around us while having fun at the same time? Are you interested in investigating the “fake news” created by bias in media? Then Current Events is the elective for you! In this project-based class, students use technology, competition, and collaboration to study current issues across the globe while considering both ELA and Social Studies curriculum. From politics to sports to popular culture, this class has something for everyone! Example projects include video newscasts, debate tournaments, podcasts, and much more!</p>

<a href="#">Teen Leadership 6</a>	6	<b>Teen Leadership 6</b> is a course in which students develop leadership, personal, and business skills. Students learn to develop a healthy self-concept, healthy relationships, and learn to understand the concept of personal responsibility. They will also develop an understanding of Emotional Intelligence and the skills it measures, which include self-awareness, self-control, self-motivation, and social skills. Teen Leadership will also promote the need for goal-setting, both personally and professionally.
<a href="#">Teen Leadership 7</a>	7	<b>Teen Leadership 7</b> is a course that allows students to develop communication skills through public speaking and further their understanding of principle-based decision-making and personal image. Specific lessons will develop skills to counteract negative influences (peer pressure, bullying, etc.), as well as strengthen relationships with their peers and families. The class will also promote the need for goal-setting, both personally and professionally.
<b>INDUSTRIAL ARTS</b>		
<a href="#">Woodworking FUNDamentals</a>	6-8	<b>Woodworking FUNDamentals</b> is a course that allows you to build projects using tools, machines and skills you acquire during the class. Class begins with learning about basic hand tools, machines, safety in the shop, and reading a ruler to the 16th of an inch. After successfully passing a proficiency test on the power tools, students will have the opportunity to use them to build projects. Basic operations, measurements, and construction techniques will be used to create several projects. This is a hands-on class, allowing you to be proud of the projects you build and take home.
Woodworking Applications*	6-8	<b>Woodworking Applications</b> is a more advanced course that builds on the foundational skills of woodworking FUNDamentals. Basic and more advanced operations and construction techniques will be used to make projects. Students will be permitted to create more advanced projects. <b>*Prerequisite:</b> Woodworking FUNDamentals
<i>World Language</i>		
Chinese 1A	8	<b>Chinese 1</b> will focus mainly on speaking, listening, and reading, with less emphasis on writing characters. Vocabulary, simple sentence structure, and giving short responses are the primary targets. Pinyin Romanization (using the ABCs to write Chinese words) is the major tool used. About 200 characters will be presented to students and approximately half of the words will need to be recognized. Sentence writing, brief dialogues, and games are among the learning activities. Due to the cumulative nature of a language, it is highly recommended that students achieve a high level of success in each course in order to be prepared for the next level of language study. High school credit is awarded for successful completion. <b>**NCAA Approved Course</b> <b>**Please consider <a href="#">these guidelines</a> before scheduling your student for this high school course</b>
Chinese 1B*	8	See Chinese 1A description <b>*Prerequisite:</b> successful completion of Chinese 1A
German 1A	8	<b>German 1</b> is a high-school-level course that introduces students to the four basic language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Early emphasis is placed on learning the pronunciation of the new language. The textbook series includes listening exercises, videos, and supplementary material, which place students in common everyday situations. The language and different customs of Germany are presented through these real-life situations. Cultural differences are also discussed. Due to the cumulative nature of a language, it is highly recommended that students achieve a high level of success in each course in order to be prepared for the next level of language study. High school credit is awarded for successful completion. <b>**NCAA Approved Course</b> <b>**Please consider <a href="#">these guidelines</a> before scheduling your student for this high school course</b>
German 1B*	8	See German 1A description <b>*Prerequisite:</b> successful completion of German 1A
Spanish 1A	8	<b>Spanish 1</b> is a high-school-level course designed to teach students to develop skills in basic listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Approximately 1,000 words in the target language will be presented. Methodologies used to promote development of skills will be done through the use of audio/visual tools, games, computers, peer instruction, teacher/student conversations and through regular daily assignments. Comparing and contrasting Hispanic vs. non-Hispanic cultures is integrated into each instructional unit, focusing on major aspects of daily living. Students will acquire basic language skills allowing them to communicate in Spanish in lifelike situations relevant to the home, school, careers, and broader cultural events. Due to the cumulative nature of a language, it is highly recommended that students achieve a high level of success in each course in order to be prepared for the next level of language study. High school credit is awarded for successful completion. <b>**NCAA Approved Course</b> <b>**Please consider <a href="#">these guidelines</a> before scheduling your student for this high school course</b>
Spanish 1B*	8	See Spanish 1A description <b>*Prerequisite:</b> successful completion of Spanish 1A

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<a href="#">LINKS Explor</a>	6-8	<p><b>LINKS</b> provides an experiential opportunity for general education students to develop connections with a diverse group of students with special needs. LINKS will attend exploratory classes with an identified peer and provide ongoing support for this other student through modeling and guiding, as well as develop a supportive and friendly relationship. The goal for LINKS students is to ensure all students are acknowledged for what makes them different and what makes them and all of us the same. This course will challenge LINKS to develop a tolerance and acceptance of others.</p> <p><i>LINKS will have higher expectations for positive behaviors and will have course objectives based on supporting their partner with special needs.</i></p>
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