

Leesville Road Middle School 2016-2017 – Rising 8th Grade

All 8th graders will take Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and Healthful Living. In addition, they will take two semester-long electives or one year-long elective (Band, Strings, or Advanced Spanish).

Advanced Band (year-long course) Technical drills, scale studies, rhythm studies, and sight reading exercises are used to advance the student's skills, knowledge, and reading ability in music. A wide variety of band literature is studied to give the students experience in various musical styles. A reasonable number of performances by this band is encouraged, and students should anticipate some after-school practices and evening performances.

Advanced Strings (year-long course) Advanced Strings students should have the equivalent of at least two years of orchestral instruction in order to take this course. Students will continue to master scales and technique. Extended ranges, shifting, and further study of good intonation are emphasized, along with in-depth study of style and interpretation. Students are encouraged to perform on an individual basis and participate in small or large ensembles. Students prepare a number of concert selections that are performed for an audience. Students should anticipate some after-school practices and evening performances.

Drawing Students are taught drawing techniques using various media. They work with line, value, and basic perspective. In addition, students will learn to think and write critically about master work as well as their own.

Pottery/Sculpture Students will create their own work with a wide variety of media such as paper, wood, clay, plaster, papier mâché, or fabric. Students explore various cultures, art history and learn to think and write critically about master work as well as their own.

Visual Composition Students will engage in deep study of the elements and principles of art centered on the curriculum set forth in the North Carolina Essential Standards for Visual Art. Two and three-dimensional techniques will be taught using a variety of media. Students explore various cultures, art history and learn to think and write critically about master work as well as their own.

Dance I This course continues developing technical skills, choreographic skills, interdisciplinary connections and creativity through various styles of dance. Students may participate in formal and informal performance activities.

Dance II Students will further develop their modern dance technique skills through a rigorous, class with more complicated performance and choreographic projects. Students should anticipate some after-school practices and evening performances.

Advanced Computer Skills & Applications (Prerequisite – Computer Skills and Applications 1) This course will be broken down into two 9 week sections. Throughout this semester students will really get a chance to familiarize themselves with the Microsoft Office Programs. They will expand on their current word processing skills learned in Computer Skills and Applications 1, as well as be introduced to spreadsheet, presentation and database software. Desktop Publishing Skills are also taught and used as a means to enhance projects created in the course.

Exploring Business, Marketing, & Entrepreneurship (Prerequisite – Computer Skills and Applications 1) This course will be broken down into two 9 week sections. This course is designed to explore the nature of business and to study related careers in fields such as financial services, purpose and functions of business, information technology, marketing management, small business and entrepreneurship. Emphasis is on using the computer while studying applications in these careers along with problem solving and thinking skills. Simulated activities, computers, and independent work habits will be used in the instructional approach.

Exploring Economics, Finance & Leadership (Prerequisite – Computer Skills and Applications 1) This course will be broken down into two 9 week sections. This course is designed to help students better understand the different economic systems, supply and demand and the effect that it has on the United States economy. In order to equip them with 21st century skills and help prepare them for the workplace, students will be introduced to business etiquette, ethics and ethical decision making. Not only will they learn the skills for seeking, gaining and maintaining employment but they will learn the importance of working as a team and leading others.

Exploring Technological Systems I This course is designed to introduce students to systems and processes to develop an understanding of the impact of technology on humans, the environment, and the global community. By investigating systems through their function, design, and development, students will understand what systems are, why they are developed and how 'systems thinking' can be used to describe them. Students engage in activities and experiences where they evaluate the impacts of technology through the lenses of culture, society, economics and the environment. Activities in this course will introduce students to the use of tools, machinery, and software to design, test, and evaluate various systems.

Family and Consumer Sciences: Family Focus This course will give students the opportunity to explore interpersonal relationships, nutrition and wellness and child development. Course will include opportunity for Red Cross Babysitter certification.

Family and Consumer Sciences: Consumer Focus This course will give students the opportunity to explore personal finance and resource management, food service and hospitality, apparel and interior design. Course includes opportunity to achieve a Personal Financial Literacy certification and the NC eFoodhandler certification.

Exploring Careers This middle school course provides an orientation to the world of work. Competencies included in this course are self-assessment, matching interests to career choices, exploring the world of work, career research, and education and career planning. Opportunities for leadership development, critical and creative thinking, decision-making, problem solving, teamwork and technology, and work-based learning provided.

Advanced Spanish (Must have completed Intermediate Spanish) This course continues the study of the Spanish language and culture, refining grammatical and vocabulary topics. Major topics include the family, activities and celebrations, physical descriptions, restaurant vocabulary, housing and living quarters, chores, colors, and culture. Major grammar topics include possessive adjectives, irregular verbs, adjectives, affirmative commands, and the present progressive tense. Students are required to take all three levels of Spanish AND pass the Wake County Public Schools Spanish Exit Exam in order to receive high school credit.