

## 2025-2026 ELECTIVE COURSE OPTIONS FOR 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS

### Apex Middle School

The elective courses listed below are options for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students at AMS.

- If your child is taking band, they will select year-long band.
- If your child is **not** taking band, they will **select 6 courses (4 primary courses and 2 alternates)** from the list below.
- **Please note** - Choosing an elective does not guarantee its availability in your child's individual schedule.

Fine Arts Electives	
Course	Course Description
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. Students should anticipate some after-school practices and evening performances.
Advanced Chorus 18 Weeks = (Semester)	Students apply correct singing technique and various elements of musical expression through developmentally appropriate and historic vocal literature. Students will use traditional notation to learn music, and to respond correctly to conductors' gestures both in rehearsal and public performance. Students in this class may be asked to represent the school in public performances and should anticipate some after-school practices and evening performances.
Painting 18 Weeks = (Semester)	This course introduces basic painting skills and concepts and presents the painting process as a problem-solving exercise designed to promote fluency, flexibility, and elaboration. In addition, students will learn to think and write critically about master work as well as their own.
Visual Composition I 18 Weeks = (Semester)	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.
World Language Electives	
Course	Course Description
Spanish 1 (MS for HS Credit) (Year Long Course)	PREREQUISITE: Beginning Spanish. Students will continue to learn the foundations of the language's vocabulary and structures in order to communicate in simple, memorized, sentences related to basic necessary skills in the target language. Classes are conducted primarily in the target language with a strong focus on comprehensible input at a level appropriate for novice learners. Activities focus on students' abilities to perform in the interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational modes of communication with a strong focus on target culture literacy. The goal is that students will be able to use what they have learned now and in the future. Typical topics in the level one course includes personal identity, family, and activities in the community. Students take an exit exam that is worth 20% of their grade. Students who successfully complete this course will demonstrate Novice Mid proficiency or higher and should register for Spanish II at the HS level.

Career & Technical Education Electives	
Course	Course Description
Exploring Business & Entrepreneurship 9 Weeks = (One Quarter)	Explore the purpose and functions of business and the concepts of entrepreneurship. Focus on the characteristics of an entrepreneur and the entrepreneurial process. Gain the knowledge and skills for careers in business, finance, and marketing. The class covers the purpose of business, the 4 forms of business, non-profit, profit business, personal characteristics of a business person and the procedures for starting a business.
Computer Science Discoveries 9 weeks = (One Quarter)	Solve a series of puzzles, challenges, and real-world scenarios using problem-solving processes. Explore how computers take input, output, store, and process information to help humans resolve problems. Design original content and share it on a webpage using HTML and CSS. Explore the knowledge and skills for careers in the Computer Science, IT, and Technology pathways.
Exploring Economic Systems 9 weeks = (One Quarter)	Discover the basics of economics. Research the types of economic systems and explore the United States economic system. Investigate concepts including supply and demand, the stock market, e-commerce, and the Federal Reserve. Gain the knowledge and skills for careers in business, finance, and marketing.
Digital Literacy 9 weeks = (One Quarter)	Explore critical digital literacy skills and evaluate content for accuracy and motive. Research the benefits of online communities and how to effectively navigate potential pitfalls in their digital lives. Formulate practical steps to protect privacy and safety online. Explore the knowledge and skills for the careers in the Computer Science, IT, and Technology pathways.
Engineering: Technological Systems I 18 Weeks = (Semester) (Paired with Technological Systems II)	<b>This will be a semester-long course as it is paired with Technological Systems II.</b> Technological Systems will introduce students to the impact of systems on engineering, the environment, and the global community by investigating systems through their function, design, and development. Students will study the types of systems and their impact on society and develop systems to solve real-world problems that focus on structural and civil engineering design challenges.
Engineering: Technological Systems II 18 Weeks = (Semester) (Paired with Technological Systems I)	<b>This will be a semester-long course as it is paired with Technological Systems I.</b> Technological Systems will introduce students to the impact of systems on engineering, the environment, and the global community by investigating systems through their function, design, and development. Students will study the types of systems and their impact on society and develop systems to solve real-world problems that focus on structural and civil engineering design challenges.
Construction Trades 18 Weeks = (Semester) (Paired with CE Transportation Systems)	<b>This will be a semester-long course as it is paired with CE Transportation Systems.</b> The Construction Trades class will introduce the simple hand tools, types of building materials, and procedures that lead to the completion of a residential dwelling with a focus on construction safety regulations from the OSHA 10 and OSHA 30 training publications and the North Carolina Residential Building Code (2018 edition).
CE Transportation Systems	<b>This will be a semester-long course as it is paired with Construction Trades.</b> The Transportation Systems class will explore

18 Weeks = (Semester) (Paired with Construction Trades)	the evolutionary process leading to the modern-day automobile using its sophisticated technologies and the most common tools associated with automotive maintenance and repair. Topics of study will include the Internal combustion engine, engine diagnostic procedures, automotive maintenance, and service careers in the automotive field.
Exploring Childcare 9 Weeks = (One Quarter)	Investigate children's development from birth to age seven. Practice basic care of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers, discuss proper nutrition, understand how to prevent accidents, and how to use positive guidance while working with children. Illustrate the importance of well-prepared and trained babysitters and how to prepare for the diverse responsibility of being a babysitter. Gain the knowledge and skills for careers in early childhood education.
Exploring Financial Literacy 9 Weeks = (One Quarter)	Explore the basics of financial literacy to build confidence in making financial decisions. Understand decision-making principles related to banking, budgeting, and credit. Discover careers in the financial industry while exhibiting mindful money management behaviors needed for adult life. Gain the knowledge and skills for careers in all Career and Technical Education pathways.
Exploring Nutrition & Wellness 9 Weeks = (One Quarter)	Students gain an understanding of the impact of choices on wellness by examining the current USDA Food Guideline. Practice nutritious meal planning and preparation. Explore basic kitchen skills, safety needs, and sanitation. Gain the knowledge and skills for careers in hospitality and tourism or human services.
Exploring Apparel & Interior Design 9 Weeks = (One Quarter)	Examine the field of apparel by exploring the elements of design, basic clothing construction, and the impact of marketing on clothing choices. Characterize the basics of interior design, including the basic principles of design. Practice managing living spaces and learn how sustainable design impacts housing. Gain the knowledge and skills for careers in apparel, textile, and interior design.