

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Course Descriptions

### YEARLONG ELECTIVES

**Advanced Band** (*Prerequisite: 7<sup>th</sup> grade Band*) 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.

**Spanish I** (DPI Title: Spanish I MS for HS Credit) (*Prerequisite: Beginning Spanish*) This course continues the study of the Spanish language and culture, refining grammatical and vocabulary topics. Major topics include the rooms in a house, making comparisons, the superlative, stem changing verbs, affirmative commands, the present progressive tense, clothing, demonstrative adjectives, and the preterit of verbs. Students who complete this course successfully and who pass the exit exam (worth 20% of the overall grade) may take Spanish II at the high school level.

**Concert Chorus** Students will continue to apply correct singing technique, study vocal health issues and various elements of musical expression through developmentally appropriate and historic vocal literature. Students will use traditional notation in order 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 some after-school practices and evening performances.

### QUARTER-LONG ELECTIVES

**Dramatics** Students develop specific skills that allow them to study and create characters for the stage. Activities include stage directions, simple set and costume design, prop collection, and play production. Students should anticipate some after-school practices and evening performances.

**Music Exploratory** Students are introduced to the skills necessary for singing and playing music with accuracy and expression while interpreting the sound and symbols of music. Through the study of various genres and cultures students will analyze, evaluate and understand the music and concepts from other areas.

**Visual Composition I** 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.

**Visual Composition II** (*Prerequisite Visual Composition 1*) Students will continue to develop their technical and artistic skills as they solve problems with their own choice of media. Students will be expected to write critical analysis of the work of others (including the masters) and their own. *\*New class to Lufkin 20-21\**

**Computer Science Discoveries I** (*Prerequisite Keyboarding and Basic Word Processing Recommended*) This course introduces students to computer science as a vehicle for problem-solving, communication, and personal expression. As a whole, this course focuses on the visible aspects of computing and computer science and encourages students to see where computer science exists around them and how they can engage with it as a tool for exploration and expression.

**Computer Science II** (*Prerequisite Computer Science Discoveries I*) This is a course that empowers students to create authentic artifacts and engage with computer science as a medium for creativity, communication, problem solving, and fun. Computer Science Discoveries takes a wide lens on computer science by covering

topics such as programming, physical computing, HTML/CSS, and data. The course inspires students as they build their own websites, apps, games, and physical computing devices. ***\*New class to Lufkin 20-21\****

**Exploring Careers** This course provides an orientation to the world of work. Emphasis is placed on self-awareness, understanding the world of work, and the career planning process. Based on the National Career Development Guidelines, skills learned in this course include, but are not limited to, communication, personal management, and teamwork. English language arts are reinforced. Work-based learning strategies appropriate for this course include business/industry field trips and job shadowing. Student participation in Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) competitive events, community service, and leadership activities provide the opportunity to apply essential standards and workplace readiness skills through authentic experiences.

**Exploring Economic Systems** Economics is the study of how individuals and societies seek to satisfy needs and wants through incentives, choices, and allocation of scarce resources. Students will compare the four basic economic systems: Traditional, Free Enterprise, Command and Mixed. Students will understand how supply and demand relates to price. Students will also study how the command component of the U.S. economy benefits the citizens.

**Design and Creativity** This course focuses on applying the design process in the invention or innovation of a new product, process, or system. Through engaging activities and hands-on projects, students focus on understanding how criteria, constraints, and processes affect designs. Emphasis is placed on brainstorming, visualizing, modeling, testing, and refining designs. Students develop skills in researching information, communicating design information, and reporting results. Activities are structured to integrate physical and social sciences, mathematics, English language arts, and art.

**Technology and Society** In this course, students learn about the nature of technology and problem solving. Students have opportunities to study the scope of technology and its impacts on society. They learn about the core concepts of technology and about the various approaches to solving problems, including engineering, design, and experimentation. Students participate in engineering-design activities to understand how criteria, constraints, and processes affect designs. Students are involved in activities and experiences where they learn about brainstorming, visualizing, modeling, constructing, testing, experimenting, and refining designs. Students also develop skills in researching for information, and communicating design information.

**Exploring Apparel and Interior Design** This hands-on course covers the basics of sewing and using sewing machines as well understanding the basics of interior design.

**Understanding Personal Finance and Hospitality** This course covers the essentials of personal finance and responsible money/resource management. Careers in finance and hospitality clusters are explored.

**Health Science- Medical Terminology in Therapeutic Service Careers:** Students will explore key concepts and foundational knowledge for in demand, allied health professions to enhance interest in the Health Science Education pathway. This is a great segway course for students interested in the Health Science Academies offered at many feeder high schools. ***\*New class to Lufkin 20-21\****