**West Millbrook Magnet Middle School**
**8th Grade Elective Course Descriptions**
**2019 - 2020**

| WORLD LANGUAGE | COURSE DESCRIPTION |
|---|---|
| **Spanish Beginning less than 1 year (Beginning)** | This course begins the study of the Spanish language and culture and is the first part in the Spanish curriculum series for high school credit. Major topics include greetings, conversation questions, telling time, classroom objects, asking for help, the parts of the body, infinitive verbs, expressing likes and dislikes, definite and indefinite articles, adjectives, subject pronouns, the present tense of –ar verbs, and the plurals of nouns and articles. |
| **Spanish Beginning 1 year (Intermediate)** | **Prerequisite: Beginning Spanish.** This course continues the study of the Spanish language and culture, refining grammatical and vocabulary topics. Students who successfully complete this course should continue the Spanish curriculum series for high school credit by taking Advanced Spanish. |
| **Spanish I- (High School Credit)** | **Prerequisite: Beginning & Intermediate Spanish**. This course continues the study of the Spanish language and culture, refining grammatical and vocabulary topics. 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. |
| **Chinese Beginning less than 1 year (Beginning)** | This course builds on the basics of Chinese as taught in the Beginning Chinese course or in the elementary program. A more formal introduction of grammar is included, as well as continued emphasis on listening, speaking, reading, writing, and culture. |
| **Chinese Beginning 1 year (Intermediate)** | **Prerequisite: Beginning Chinese.** This course continues the study of the Chinese language and culture, refining grammatical and vocabulary topics. Students who successfully complete this course should continue the Chinese curriculum series for high school credit by taking Advanced Chinese. |
| **French Beginning less than 1 year (Beginning)** | This course is an introduction to French language and culture. Major topics include classroom objects, numbers, colors, the calendar, greetings, telling time, weather expressions, common verbs, foods, the family, clothing, animals, basic prepositions, negative expressions, adjectives, and commands. Students who complete this course successfully should next take Intermediate French or French A. |
| **French Beginning 1 year (Intermediate)** | **Prerequisite: Beginning French.** This course continues the study of the French language and culture, refining grammatical and vocabulary topics. Students who successfully complete this course should continue the French curriculum series for high school credit by taking Advanced French. |

| ARTS ELECTIVES | COURSE DESCRIPTION |
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| **Beginning Band** | Emphasis is on the acquisition of basic musical skills as students learn to play a brass, woodwind, or percussion instrument. |
| **Intermediate Band** | 2nd Year **Prerequisite: Beginning Band** |
| **Advanced Band** | 3rd Year **Prerequisite: Beginning and Intermediate Band** |
| **Beginning Strings** | Beginning Strings is a course designed for students who are interested in playing a stringed instrument (violin, viola, cello, bass) for the first time. |
| **Intermediate Strings** | 2nd Year **Prerequisite: Beginning Strings** |
| **Advanced Strings** | 3rd Year **Prerequisite: Beginning and Intermediate Strings** |
| **Visual Arts Exploratory** | This course introduces students to the elements of art through a variety of media that may include: drawing, painting, printmaking, mixed media, pottery, and weaving. |
| **Visual Art Composition (8th grade only)** | 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. |
| **Magnet Advanced Design 2D** | This advanced level course emphasizes the principles of art and design to achieve strong compositions. Advanced work will feature multiple approaches to creative problem-solving using a variety of two-dimensional mediums such as collage, graphic design, painting and photography. Students will be challenged to work with others and contribute to the collaborative process. They will have the opportunity for independent study and are expected to be motivated to follow through on a project from ideation to finished product. |
| **Magnet Drawing I** | 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. |
| **Dance I** | This course continues developing skills and creativity through modern 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. |
| **Magnet Dance Ensemble (Auditions)** | **Prerequisite: Audition required. For 7th & 8th graders only.** A select group of dancers who create dances in a collaborative process. Dances are performed in the community and in the Dance Concerts. This course is for the serious dancer only. Performance is mandatory. |
| **Magnet Introduction to Theatre** | This course is an overview of dramatic techniques. Students develop communication skills through study in dialogue, pantomime, improvisation, speech/diction, and role play. |
| **Magnet Acting I** | 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. |

| DESIGN ELECTIVES | COURSE DESCRIPTION |
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| **Magnet Odyssey of the Mind** | Students develop problem-solving skills through logic activities, and prepare for the annual OM competition. Students apply their creativity to solve problems that range from building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics. |
| **Magnet Science Olympiad** | This course enables students to apply Science and Mathematics concepts and principles in innovative situations that enhance problem-solving skills. Independent and group projects are completed under the guidelines of the National Science Olympiad. Students in this course will have the opportunity to compete in local and regional competitions. |
| **Exploring Apparel and Interior Design** | The modules that are covered in this course are: personal finance and resource management, food service and hospitality, apparel, and interior design. |
| **Exploring Wellness and Nutrition** | The modules that are covered in this course are: interpersonal relationships, nutrition and wellness, child development and education. |
| **Project Revive** | This middle school 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. |
| **Technological Issues and Impacts** | This middle school course focuses on students' understanding how technological systems work together to solve problems and capture opportunities. |
| **Keyboarding & Basic Word Processing** | This middle school course is composed of instructional modules designed to allow students to learn the touch method of keyboarding, digital literacy and computer knowledge, and basic word processing and document formatting skills. |
| **Introduction to Office Productivity** | **Prerequisite: Keyboarding & Basic Word Processing.** This middle school course is composed of instructional modules designed to provide hands-on instruction using software common in the workplace. The software applications include word processing, presentation, spreadsheet, database, and desktop. |
| **Computer Science Discoveries** | Students will experience all areas of Computer Science (hardware, software, web page design, computer programming, and data analysis). |
| **Design and Creativity** | This middle school 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. |