

Holly Ridge Middle School 2017-18 ELECTIVE COURSE OPTIONS FOR 7th and 8th GRADE STUDENTS

The elective courses listed below are options for 7th and 8th grade students. Your child will select 4 electives and 4 alternates from this list. You can find out more information on our school's website: (hollyridgems.wcpss.net)

It is important to note that the availability of elective courses is dependent upon each school's master schedule, and choosing an elective does not guarantee it's availability in your child's individual schedule.

Course	Course Description
African- American History	The history and culture of African-Americans are examined. Students will investigate the changing events, people, politics, and economics that have shaped African-American history.
American History Themes and Dreams	This course focuses on twentieth century themes in the American nation. Selections from the series, <i>A History of US</i> (Author Joy Hakim), will be used to energize and engage students in American History as they study the significant people, places, and events that impacted our nation in the twentieth century
Animal Science	This study of reptiles, amphibians, mammals, and birds emphasizes habitats, interdependence, domestications, diseases, and treatment. Students learn to prepare environments that simulate the natural habitats of the animals. Ecological concepts, including man's ability to manipulate environments, are highlighted.
Chorus Concert Chorus – (requires Chorus) Concert Chorus – Yearlong (requires Concert Chorus)	Students apply correct singing technique and various elements of musical expression through developmentally appropriate and historic vocal literature. Students learn how to use traditional notation in order to learn music, and to respond correctly to conductors' gestures both in rehearsal and public performance.
Dance I Dance II – (requires Dance I) Dance II – Yearlong (requires Dance I)	This course introduces creative movement, improvisation, and choreography through basic modern dance techniques. 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.
Digital Literacy	This middle school course is composed of instructional modules designed to allow students to learn the touch method of keyboarding, basic digital literacy and computer knowledge, and basic word processing and document formatting skills.
Exploring Apparel and Interior Design	This middle school course is composed of instructional modules designed to explore basic Family and Consumer Sciences foundations and skill sets. The modules that are covered in this course are: personal finance and resource management, food service and hospitality, apparel, and interior design.
Exploring Business and Entrepreneurship (requires Intro to Office Productivity)	This middle school course is designed to explore the nature of business, entrepreneurial skills, and to study related careers in fields such in financial services, information technology, marketing, office systems technology, public relations and promotion, and travel and tourism.
Exploring Interpersonal Relationships and Childcare	This 18 week middle school course is composed of instructional modules designed to explore basic Family and Consumer Sciences foundations and skill sets. The modules that are covered in this course are: interpersonal relationships, nutrition and wellness, early child care and education, and interior design.
Exploring Personal Characteristics and Careers	This middle school 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.

Intermediate Band – (requires Beginning Band) Advanced Band – Yearlong (requires Intermediate Band)	This class is a continuation of the skills taught in Beginning Band with further development of tone production, breath support, and music reading. Students are introduced to performance skills and techniques. They are encouraged to perform as individuals and as members of an ensemble. Students should anticipate some after-school practices and evening performances.
Intro to Office Productivity (requires Digital Literacy /Keyboarding and 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 publishing.
Invention and Innovation	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.
Marine Ecosystems	In this course, students will be introduced to the study of oceanography through the examination of the structure and function of marine life with special emphasis on organism interactions and specific ecosystems such as coral reefs, estuaries, and lagoons.
Math Counts	Students who have a special interest in mathematics and who wish to extend their problem-solving skills. Students use MATH COUNTS materials provided by the Professional Engineers of North Carolina. Activities include speed drills, power drills, and simulated competitions.
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.
Newspaper	This course allows students to examine the various types, purposes, and effects of journalistic styles and designs. Students learn different types of journalistic writing, including news stories, feature stories, sports copy, and editorials. Assignments include writing, proofreading, constructing layouts, and using photographs and artwork.
Olympics of Science and Math	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 may have the opportunity to compete in local, regional, state, and national level.
Pottery/Sculpture	Students will create their own work with a wide variety of media such as paper, wood, clay, plaster, paper mâché, or fabric. Students explore various cultures, art history and learn to think and write critically about master work as well as their own.
Public Speaking and Debate	Students explore the production and reception of oral language through writing, delivering, and critiquing informal and formal speeches. Informational and argumentative public speaking is emphasized as students learn to consider both sides of an issue and move into formal debate.
Reading Enrichment and Extension	This course is designed for grade level or above readers. Students will have the opportunity to read from all genres to further increase their reading comprehension, vocabulary, and high order thinking skills.
Spanish Beginning 1 year Spanish Continuing 2 years – (requires Spanish Beg. 1) Spanish I – Yearlong (requires Spanish Cont. 2)	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. Students who complete Adv Spanish successfully and who pass the exit exam (worth 20% of the overall grade) may take Spanish II at the high school level.

Tarheel Junior Historians at Work	This course focuses on the history of North Carolina with activities sponsored by the Tar Heel Junior Historian (THJH) programs. Opportunities are provided to research and write articles for the THJH magazine.
Technological Issues and Impacts	This middle school course focuses on students' understanding how technological systems work together to solve problems and capture opportunities.
Visual Composition I Visual Composition II	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.
We the People	Students examine the process of making local, state, and federal laws. Classes focus on the role of state and local governments in the U.S. federal system.
Yearbook – Yearlong	This course allows students to examine journalistic writing and publishing. Students learn the fundamentals of yearbook design from theme development to marketing and distribution.