

8th GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

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 Dramatics (year-long course)

Students will continue to develop their acting skills through more challenging theatre projects. They will work collaboratively to incorporate to all the technical elements (lighting, sound, scenery, costumes) into creating a production. Students should anticipate some after-school practices and evening performances.

Concert Chorus (year-long course)

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 should anticipate some after-school practices and evening performances.

Chorus (semester)

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. Students will study vocal music and its relationship to other cultures, eras and geographical locations.

Dramatics (semester)

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.

Drawing (semester)

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.

Exploring Apparel and Interior Design / Understanding Personal Finance and Hospitality (semester)

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: personal finance and resource management, food service and hospitality, apparel, and interior design. Students are eligible to receive EverFi's Vault™ and the NC eFoodhandler™ certifications. English language arts and mathematics are reinforced. Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) competitive events, community service and leadership activities provide the opportunity to apply essential standards and workplace readiness through authentic experiences.

Exploring Business and Entrepreneurship / Exploring Business Activities (semester) **Prerequisite: Introduction 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. Emphasis is on using the computer while studying applications in these careers along with problem solving and thinking skills. This course contributes to the development of a career development plan. English language arts, mathematics, and social studies are reinforced. Work-based learning strategies appropriate for this course include service learning and job shadowing. Apprenticeship and cooperative education are not available for this course. Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) competitive events, community service, and leadership activities provide the opportunity to apply essential standards and workplace readiness skills through authentic experiences.

Exploring Computer Science (semester) **Prerequisites: Keyboarding and Basic Word Processing**

This course will extend the logical and computational thinking skills introduced in math courses. It will serve as an introduction to students with limited knowledge of how to apply these skills to problem solving using a computer and extend learning for those that have Computer Science experience. Students will experience all areas of Computer Science (hardware, software, web page design, computer programming, and data analysis). This approach will allow students to align their area(s) of interest to a corresponding pathway of study at the high school level. This course will help prepare students for the following high school courses: • Multimedia and Webpage Design • Computer Programming I • AP Computer Science Principles

Exploring Economics Systems/Business Procedures and Leadership (semester)

This middle school course is designed to explore how economic systems impact business and principles of business and personal finance. Emphasis is on using the computer while studying applications in these areas, along with problem solving and thinking skills. This course contributes to the development of a career development plan. English language arts, mathematics, and social studies are reinforced. Work-based learning strategies appropriate for this course include service learning and job shadowing. Apprenticeship and cooperative education are not available for this course. Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) competitive events, community service, and leadership activities provide the opportunity to apply essential standards and workplace readiness skills through authentic experiences.

Exploring Interpersonal Relationships and Childcare / Exploring Nutrition and Wellness (semester)

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, child development and education. Students are eligible to receive the American Red Cross® Babysitter certification. English language arts and mathematics are reinforced. Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) competitive events, community service and leadership activities provide the opportunity to apply essential standards and workplace readiness through authentic experiences.

Exploring Personal Characteristics and Careers/Exploring Careers and Employment (semester)

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. 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.

Spanish Beginning 1 Year (semester) **Prerequisite: Beginning Spanish**

This course continues the study of the Spanish language and culture, refining grammatical and vocabulary topics. Major topics include foods, the present tense of –er and –ir verbs, the plurals of adjectives, the verb ser, the verb ir, question words, places, leisure activities, irregular verbs, possessive adjectives, family, celebrations, the restaurant, and personal descriptions. Students who successfully complete this course should continue the Spanish curriculum series for high school credit by taking Advanced Spanish.

Spanish I MS for HS Credit (semester) **Prerequisite: Spanish Beginning 1 Year.**

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.

Visual Composition I (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.

Visual Composition II (semester)

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.