



# 2024-25 Middle School Course Offerings and Descriptions



Elective Options

# PE and Health



# P.E./Health (Required): Options for 7-8 Grade

## 1. Physical Education/Health

Students learn the health-related benefits of regular physical activity and the skills to adopt a physically active, healthy lifestyle. The PE program also provides an excellent opportunity to ensure that students develop positive social skills, cooperate with others, and accept responsibility for their own actions. This class will focus on team sports concepts and skills and a variety of other fitness activities.

Students learn about health behaviors that will safeguard their health as well as information related to understanding puberty and the reproductive process. Students are taught about factors in their environment that impact, not only their health and the health of their families, but the health of their communities as well. Middle school students learn to refine their critical-thinking skills to avoid unsafe situations, analyze health information and products, and maintain healthy relationships. Students begin to investigate health in the broader context of community.



# P.E./Health (Required): Options for 7-8 Grade

## 2. Personal Wellness:

Students learn the health-related benefits of regular physical activity and the skills to adopt a physically active, healthy lifestyle through individual strength training and cardio workouts. This class is intended for students who learn best in a non-competitive learning environment.

# P.E./Health (Required): Options for 7-8 Grade

## 3. Strength & Conditioning:

Strength and Conditioning class will provide an opportunity for development of strength and conditioning for various sports and fitness related activities.

Free weights, exercise machines and conditioning activities will be incorporated to promote improvement in strength, endurance, balance, agility, and speed. Students will lift 3 days each week, and will participate in conditioning activities on 1-2 times per week. Proper technique, safety precautions and proper application of the Principles of Training will be emphasized. A plan to achieve goals will be developed and implemented during this year long course. This course also fulfills the requirements for health credits set forth by the district.

**Students will have the option of completing their PE/Health requirement by attending “Full Day” PE/Health Summer School for 19 days in June 2022**





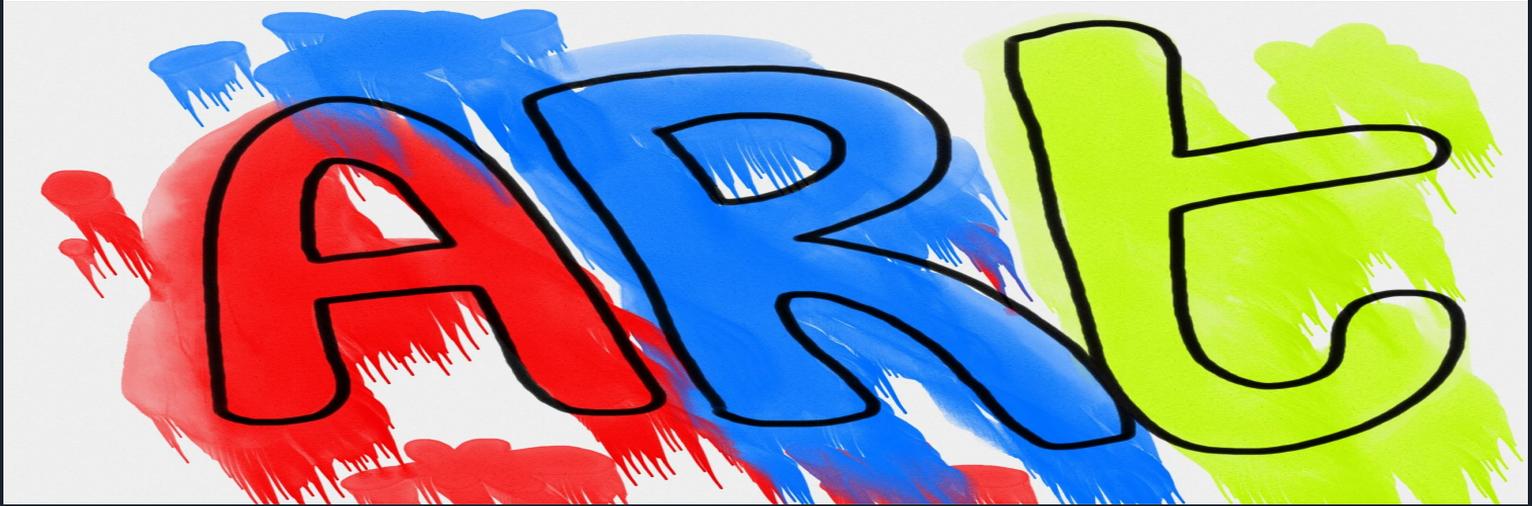
# Foreign Language

## 8th Grade Only Spanish - (Full Year - Two Semesters)

**This is a high school level course for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students only. It is taken for high school credit. It is a fast paced study of the Spanish language and Hispanic cultures.**

**This class focuses on providing students the opportunities to listen and speak in Spanish, as well as, learning to read and write Spanish. Class activities are based on real-life communication situations and cultural experiences.**

# Elective Options





# Visual Arts: 6th Grade Art

Students will...

- Explore art materials to create original works of art and begin to develop basic knowledge of the Elements of Design (Line, Shape, Color, Value, Form, Texture and Space).
- Learn to develop individual viewpoints about art and how it impacts the world we live in.



# Visual Arts I

(7th graders and 8th graders who did not take Art in 7th grade)

Students will...

- Explore a variety of art materials and techniques to create 2-Dimensional and 3-Dimensional works of art.
- Learn to develop a detailed description of a work of art and analyze how the Elements of design were used.
- Explore historical and societal impact of art in our world.



# Visual Arts II

(Art I is a Prerequisite)

Students will...

- Explore higher level experiences in 2-D and 3-D art.
- Develop a basic foundation of art criticism (describe, analyze, interpret and judge) and learn to provide evidence to communicate and express ideas and opinions.
- Begin to explore the Principles of Design (Balance, Contrast, Emphasis, Movement, Pattern, Rhythm and Unity).
- Develop a broader awareness of the historical and societal impact of art in our world.



# Visual Arts III

(Visual Arts I and II are Prerequisites - High School Elective Credit)

Students will...

- Explore advanced experiences with a variety of art materials and techniques to create 2-D and 3-D works of art.
- Develop a solid foundation of art criticism and skills to communicate individual ideas and opinions about art by providing details and evidence to support their opinion.
- Express ideas and opinions regarding the historical and societal impact of art in our world.
- Visual Arts III is now a high school elective credit. In order to get this elective you must pass with a B or higher on your art portfolio.



# Elective Options

# Performing Arts



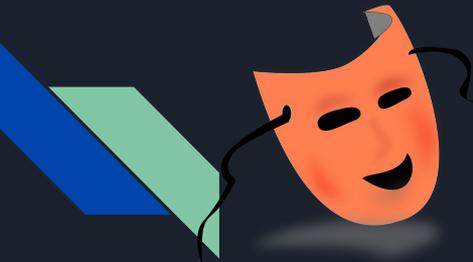


# Acting and Debate Semester Long



**This course is intended for the beginning  
Acting and Debate student to take in 7th or  
8th grade**

- One quarter spent on Acting
- One quarter spent on Debate
- Participation in one or more tournaments or performances outside of class time are required



# Acting and Debate Year Long



**This course is intended for experienced Acting and Debate Students in 7th and 8th grade**

- One semester of Acting
- One semester of Debate
- Participation in one or more tournaments or performances outside of class time are required



# Competitive Drama

## 7th and 8th

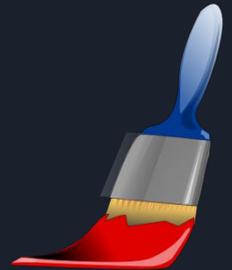
**This course is intended for advanced 7th and 8th grade performers or speakers who want to compete in tournaments as part of the Speech and Debate Team.**

- Full Year or Semester - Can be taken and repeated in both 7th and 8th grade
  - Year Long encouraged for better preparation for competition season
- MSHSAA eligibility required in order to perform at competitions
- After school tournaments are required

# Stagecraft-8th Only Bingham/Pioneer

Nowlin 7th and 8th

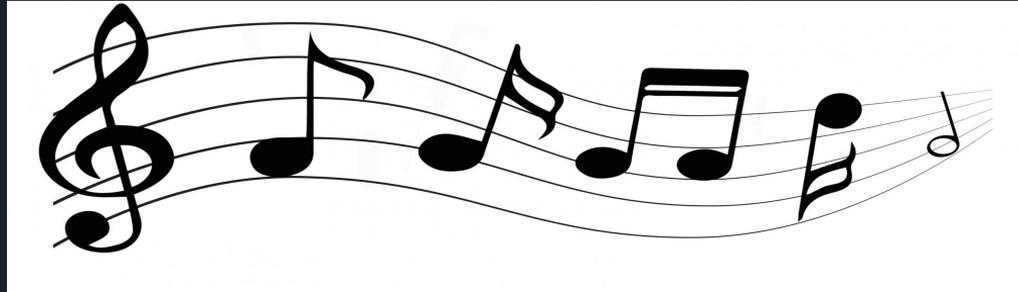
- Students create sets, props and costumes for the Fall Production
- Course will focus on:
  - tool identification and safety
  - Construction techniques
  - Stage painting techniques
  - Costuming and makeup
- Semester-long course





# Elective Options

# Music



# 7th / 8th Choir

Non-Auditioned Choir - Everyone Welcome

- Development of voice, singing skills, and musical knowledge
- Year-long course
- **2 Required Evening Concerts**
- This choir typically sings in two parts



# 7th / 8th Honor Choir

An audition and good character is required

- Higher level practice of voice, singing skills, and musical knowledge
- Year-long course
- 3-5 Required Evening Events
- This choir splits into 3 sections (Soprano, Alto, Baritone)



# Guitar

This course is designed for the beginner or experienced guitar player. Students will develop/expand their musical knowledge, learn to play the notes and chords of the guitar and some popular music.

Semester-long course

**Guitars are provided for in-class use.**



# 7th Grade Orchestra



- Students will continue to acquire performance and music reading skills
- Students will continue to develop ensemble performance skills in instrument family classes
  - Brass: Trumpet, Horn, Trombone, Baritone, Tuba
  - Percussion
  - Woodwinds: Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone
- Students will provide their own instruments
- Opportunities to participate in solo and small ensembles will be available
- At home practice is highly encouraged

● ALL concerts and festivals are REQUIRED! They are a large part of a student's grade.

● Prerequisite: Must pass 6th Grade Band



# 8th Grade Orchestra

- Students will continue to acquire performance and music reading skills
- Students will continue to develop ensemble performance skills in a whole band setting
  - Percussion will continue to be a separate class
  - All students will have the opportunity to participate in a parade band performance
- Students will provide their own instruments
- Opportunities to participate in district honor band auditions as well as solo and small ensembles will be available
- At home practice is highly encouraged
- ALL concerts, parades, festivals, and other events are REQUIRED! They are a large part of a student's grade.
- Prerequisite: Must pass 7th Grade Band



## 7th Grade

## Band

## 8th Grade

Students will continue to acquire skills in recognizing and playing correct notes, rhythms, and develop the ability to work and perform with other students.

Students will provide their own instruments with a few exceptions

Participation in extracurricular ensembles may be available, such as pep/jazz band and solo/small ensemble.

At home practice and all concert/contest participation are **required** and are part of the student's grade.

**Prerequisite - Must pass 6th grade band**

This course combines traditional performance opportunities with new ensembles to showcase students' talents.

The students will participate in 8th grade marching band as well as concert band, and have the opportunity to audition for honor groups.

Students will have the opportunity to participate in extracurricular groups such as pep/jazz band.

At home practice and concert/contest participation are **requirements**, and included in the student's grade

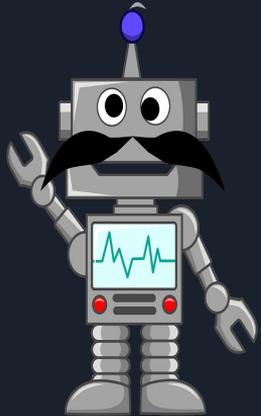
**Prerequisite - Must pass 7th grade band**

Elective Options



# PLTW & STEM

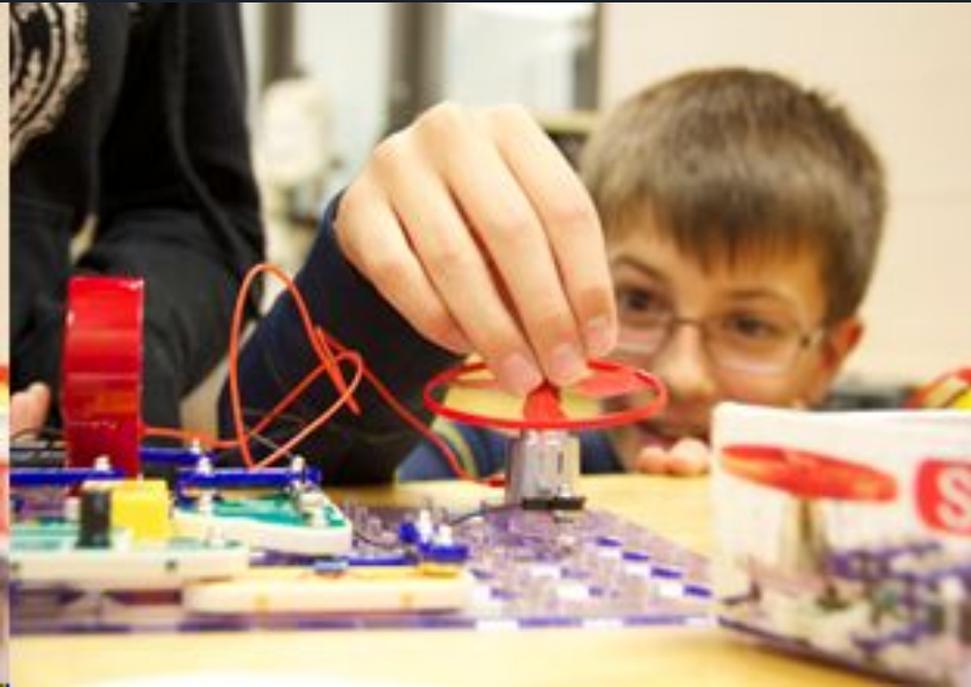
## PROJECT LEAD THE WAY



# Project Lead the Way



Engage Students' Natural Curiosity and Imagination





[Click to play PLTW video](#)

# Project Lead the Way



## 1. **Engineering Fundamentals (7th and 8th Grade)**

**Offered as a Semester class**

Students will use the VEX Robotics platform to learn about mechanical systems, design, build, and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, toll booths, and robotic arms.

Students discover the design process and develop an understanding of the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. Students will use Autodesk design and Sketchup software to create a virtual image of their designs.

# Project Lead the Way



## **2. Introduction to Computer Science (7th and 8th Grade)** Offered as a Semester class

This unit will expose students to computer science by computationally analyzing and developing solutions to authentic problems through mobile app development, and will convey the positive impact of the application of computer science to other disciplines and to society.

Throughout the unit, students will learn about programming for the physical world by blending hardware design and software development. They will design and develop a physical computing device, interactive art installation, or wearable, and plan and develop code for microcontrollers that bring their physical designs to life.

# Project Lead the Way



## **3. Flight and Space (7th and 8th Grade)** Offered as a Semester class

Students explore the science behind aeronautics and use their knowledge to design, build, and test a glider. Students will also study the history and principles of flying machines from the earliest Wright Brothers' Flyer all the way to the Space Shuttle.

## **4. Medical Detectives (7th and 8th Grade)** Offered as a Semester class

In Medical Detectives, Students take on the role of real-life medical detectives as they collect and analyze medical data to diagnose disease. They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, measure and interpret vital signs, examine nervous system structure and function, and investigate disease outbreaks. Students will analyze and develop solutions to authentic problems through 3 Units: diagnose a patient's illness, diagnose a mystery disease, solve an outbreak that culminates in a toxins lab.

# STEM Courses

## 1. Multi-Media Technology (7th and 8th Grade)

Offered as Semester and Year-long class

In this course, students will learn to utilize programs for photo, audio and video editing as well as develop their typing skills.

Students will explore and study Broadcasting Design in order to create and share multimedia projects. Students will play a vital role in creating broadcasts, interviews, and videos for school use.

See a broadcast video you could be apart of:

[Nowlin](#)

[Bingham](#)

[Pioneer](#)



# STEM Courses

## 2. Technology Applications (7th and 8th Grade)

Offered as a Semester class

In this course, students will continue to learn and practice keyboarding, digital citizenship, and coding, along with more advanced Microsoft Office and Google Apps programs.

Students will also create CAD drawings, presentations and webpages to prepare them for high school coursework and future careers.





# Electives

## Year Long vs. Semester Classes

**YEAR LONG** classes will last the entire year, as the name implies. If you take a year-long class, you will not switch at semester. Year long classes include:

- Band
- Choir
- Orchestra
- Acting & Debate (more advanced than semester long)
- Competitive Drama (can repeat)
- Multi-Media Tech
- Spanish 1 (8th Grade only)



**SEMESTER LONG** classes will last one semester, as the name implies. If you take a semester long class, you will switch to your new class at semester. Semester long classes include:

- Visual Arts 1, 2, 3
- Competitive Drama (can repeat)
- Acting & Debate
- Engineering Fundamentals
- Multi-Media Tech
- Intro to Computer Science
- Guitar

- 8th grade only classes:
  - Stagecraft



# Electives

## Year Long vs. Semester Classes

- If you plan to sign up for a year-long elective, you will select that class, and then choose a class(es) in the alternative section.
- If you plan to sign up for semester-long elective, you will choose two elective classes in that section, and then choose a class(es) in the alternate section.
- You may not receive your first choice, so it is important that you think about what alternate elective you would like to take. Your alternate elective classes must be different from your other selection(s).