

Elective Course Description Sheet - 8th Grade

Art 8 (*Semester*) is a course designed to provide students with a studio-based experience in which they can explore fundamental topics in art and design. Artists are guided and supported to foster an enthusiasm in their work through drawing, painting, printmaking, and sculpture building.

Advanced Art 8 (*Year*) is a yearlong course designed to provide students with an in-depth, studio-based art experience. Artists are given time to focus on personal interests and are supported to foster an enthusiasm for their own work. All students gain a fundamental understanding of the issues of art and design and learn to look at the art making process critically and analytically.

Band 8 (*Advanced*) (*Year*) Students will be exposed to a wide variety of advanced musical literature. Emphasis is placed on achieving a higher degree of artistic performance, both as an individual and as an ensemble. This is an audition-only performance group. First year players will not be accepted into this Band. After school rehearsals will be scheduled in order to prepare for each scheduled performance. **Students must audition with Mr. Reid before being selected for this ensemble.**

Chorus 8 (*Year*) Do you like to sing and perform? Then this is the class for you! Chorus 8 is our premier vocal ensemble and is made up exclusively of eighth graders. Students will develop into independent singers, striving to achieve the highest level of musicianship in choral music. Students in Chorus 8 will perform in solos and small ensembles, as well as performing with the full Chorus. They will also learn and improve their music reading and sight-singing ability. Highlights of the year will include several concerts and auditions for the All-District Chorus. **After-school rehearsals will be scheduled in order to prepare for each scheduled performance.**

Desktop/Multimedia Presentation (*Semester*) (*One-half high school credit*) is a production-based class where students develop proficiency in designing and creating desktop-published projects, multimedia presentations/projects, and WEB sites, using industry-standard application software. Students apply principles of layout and design in completing projects. Students create portfolios that include a résumé and a variety of desktop-published, multimedia and Web site projects produced in the course.

Digital Input & Applications (*Semester*) (*One-half high school credit*) will have nine weeks of keyboarding skill building with other applications. This course is designed for students to develop real-life, outcome-driven approach skills for digital citizenship, basic computer operations, keyboarding, applications software (word processing, spreadsheets, multimedia applications, databases), and career exploration. This course promotes skill building that can be applied across the curriculum.

Ensemble Music (*Year*) This course culminates in a full-scale production of a musical, with participants expected to sing, act, and dance. The first semester will focus on the development of the musical theatre genre, exploring technical skills such as sewing, lighting, and set design and will reinforce singing and acting in the musical theatre style. The second semester will see a full-scale production where students audition or interview for roles to put on several performances at the end of the year. **Students must be in 8th grade, have previously taken Chorus or Theatre at ODS, and must also enroll in either chorus or theatre. After-school rehearsals will occur throughout the musical production semester. A specific schedule will be available in advance.**

Health and Physical Education 8 (*Semester*) Fitness and movement exploration with emphasis on learning of lifetime fitness and sports. Activities include weight training, cross fit, aerobic activities, dance, yoga and other fitness related experiences. Traditional sports activities are played to include golf, flag football, badminton, soccer, and recreational type games. Students will be exposed to other nontraditional games in order for everyone to find their niche. It is a blended curriculum whereas students engage in interactive, meaningful learning experiences within the physical education setting, often injecting health concepts that once were taught in a more traditional classroom. It is also a hybrid course whereas the predominant amount of health knowledge will be obtained by a set of modules online. Through these modules the student will obtain an understanding of wellness, health risk behaviors, managing personal health, and environmental health. A culminating activity at the end of the year is beachfest where students learn safe practices while at the beach to include skin cancer, safety, nutrition, recreation and games.

Introduction to Computers (*Semester*) This semester course in creative coding introduces students to computer science as a vehicle for problem solving, communication, and personal expression. As a whole, this semester 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.

Intermediate Computer Exploration (*Semester*) This semester course in creative coding lets students explore the impact of computer science on society. Students will see how a user-centered design process produces a better application, how data is used to address problems that affect large numbers of people, and how physical computing with circuit boards allows computers to collect input and return output in a variety of ways. **Prerequisite: Introduction to Computers**

Jazz Band (*Year*) This class will explore the development of Jazz music and the many different styles of Jazz literature. The class will be limited to traditional Jazz Band instrumentation. All participating students must be enrolled in Band 8 (with exceptions for piano, bass, guitar and drums). Students must audition with Mr. Reid before being selected for this ensemble.

Oral Communications (*Semester*) is a course designed for students to extend knowledge and skills acquired in previous theatre coursework. Students will build onto their foundational knowledge of theatre by primarily focusing on performance, playwrighting, and directing. Students will learn practical theatre skills (both on stage and off stage) that will prepare them for theatre in high school, the community, and beyond! This course culminates with a showcase performance. There will be some after-school rehearsals and performances expected in this course.

Orchestra 8 (*Advanced*)(*Year*) places an emphasis on the acquisition of skills needed to meet a high standard of musical performance as a soloist and ensemble member. Most of the members have at least two years of orchestra experience and many of those members have three and four years of experience. Music repertoire for the class includes Grade IV, V, and VI levels of difficulty. Several after-school performances and rehearsals will be required.

Reading Skills for the College Bound (*Semester*) (*One-half high school credit*) is designed for students to gain the independence necessary for a successful college experience. Students learn how to read and think analytically, prepare for the SAT, and refine study skills. In addition, students focus on using reasoning and problem-solving skills to make informed decisions, building high-level comprehension skills to read and understand rigorous high school and post-secondary texts, and assessing and evaluating new information independently. Emphasis is placed on self-exploration through critical thinking that includes determining learning styles, refining appropriate study skills for college, and assessing the components of choosing the college or post-secondary experience to fit each individual.

Special Projects (*Semester*) What do **you** want to explore? What are your interests and how can they be developed into a future career? Special Projects is a student-centered course in which students direct their own learning and create learning opportunities that tap into their own interests, such as coding, 3D modeling and rapid prototyping, robots and drones, etc. Students will explore influential inventions and innovations from our past and complete student-directed and designed projects.

Theatre I (*Semester*) is a course where students will gain an appreciation for theatre by learning about each aspect of the art form. Students will perform in class through both informal and formal presentations as well as improvisational scene work. Students will also have the opportunity to design technical theatre elements (such as costumes or set). Students will learn how theatre has evolved throughout history, and how that influences the way we produce theatre today. By the end of the semester, students will have a solid foundation in theatre on which they can continue to build.