

# EXPLORER MIDDLE SCHOOL ~ 2006-2007 ~ ELECTIVE CLASSES ~ SEVENTH GRADE

## FINE ARTS

### **Art (Qtr/.25)**

As beginning students of visual arts, students will have the opportunity to develop their observational skills as they learn to examine the objects and events of their lives. Included in this course will be opportunities to create their own art using various tools and mediums to express their ideas visually. Activities will include lessons on helping students to understand artists of the past and present, study artwork the way experts do, as well as observe how other subjects or life themes can relate to visual art study. Whether students plan on becoming artists or not, hopefully they can be shown how to look for beauty, design, and communication of ideas in everyday life through visual art study. Effort is expected in daily assignments, written quizzes, completing assignments within the time period given, periodic notebook checks, and appropriate behavior during art critiquing activities.

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Band (Cadet Band) (Yr/1.0)**

This course is a study of basic fundamental technical development and large ensemble performance. The major topics covered in this class will be music theory, music history, and traditional and contemporary band music. Other features of this course are participation in at least two evening concerts and a possible day performance. Participating students have played their band instruments for more than one year. Grading is primarily based on participation and performance exams.

### **Beginning Band (Yr/1.0)**

This course is a study of the basic elements of music tonal production and skill development. The major topics covered in this class will be Band Method I and concert preparation. This is for students interested in learning to play a band instrument for the first time or switching to a new instrument. While students must provide their own equipment, there are school instruments available on first-come-first-served basis. Prospective percussionists are recommended to have previous keyboard experience.

### **Strings (Yr/1.0)**

This class is for those students who have had a minimum of one year's experience playing violin, viola, cello, bass and who have a commitment to expand their musical experiences. Emphasis will be placed on the development of advanced performance skills such as: proper tone production, intonation, technique, articulation, interpretation, bow control, and proper posture. Students will play music at a level that will assist them in developing musical knowledge and organization. Music learned in class will be performed in concerts throughout the school year. **Concert attendance is a requirement of this class.** Students will also study music theory to support their performance skills.

### **Trailblazer Chorus- Boys/Girls (Qtr/.25)**

Students will learn and practice proper vocal technique. Emphasis will be placed on musical elements such as music theory, music history, and sight singing. Grades are based on participation and demonstrated knowledge of musical concepts. NOTE: This course is a prerequisite for Blazer Pride Chorus or Show Choir.

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE

### **Exploratory Language (Qtr/.25)**

This 9-week class offers a general overview to World Languages. Students will explore reasons to study a World Language while experiencing languages, cultures, customs and foods. The class will include units in both Spanish & French so that students can make decisions about future language classes offered at EMS or in high school.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

### **Physical Education/Health (Semester/.5)**

The physical education program further develops and refines the movement skills introduced in the elementary school programs. The middle school physical education program includes the teaching of major and minor sports, health and recreational activities in a structured environment. Emphasis is placed upon the teaching of related skills, physical fitness, a healthy lifestyle and acceptable social interactions.

## VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

### **Computer Fundamentals - 7 (Semester/.5)**

This course designed to prepare middle school students for high school computer classes and provide a solid foundation for understanding and using technology in all subject areas. Students develop skills in keyboarding and advance their knowledge of the computer and its operation using Windows based PCs. Students employ a variety of computer applications including word processing, spreadsheet, graphic design, multimedia, and the Internet. Activities include keyboard practice and creation of a variety of word processing, spreadsheet and multimedia documents.

### **Applied Technology Lab - 7 (Quarter/.25)**

Applied Technology Lab students will enjoy learning how to apply academic concepts and thinking skills toward the understanding, use, and control of technology. Students work with computers individually and collaboratively on a variety of problem solving, designing, and simulation programs. Students also are given the opportunity to discover technology through practical application by using kits and other hands-on applications.

