

EXPLORER MIDDLE SCHOOL ~ 2006-2007 ~ ELECTIVE CLASSES ~ EIGHTH GRADE

All students are required to take a fine arts, physical education, and vocational class. Elective course descriptions are provided to help your student select classes that meet his/her specific needs. Students and parents should read each of the course descriptions carefully prior to making course selections. **Students who select (2) yearlong electives can select a semester elective from fine arts, physical education, or vocational education. Student course selection is subject to availability and/or enrollment.**

FINE ARTS:

Art (Semester/.5)

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.

Art 8 (Semester/.5)

Students who have successfully completed the art introductory course may request placement into the Art – 8 class. This course will build on the fundamentals of the elements of art and principles of design. This art course will allow the more serious art student to develop a higher mastery of the media, technique and process, understanding art history, and determine which specialty area of art they might want to explore in High School and college. **(Must have teacher recommendation for this course.)**

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.

Band 8- Concert Band (Yr/1.0)

This course is a study of advanced fundamental technical development and large ensemble performance. The major topics covered in this class will be music theory, basic music history, and traditional and contemporary band music. Other features of this course include participation in at least two evening concerts and a possible day performance. Participating students are in the eighth grade and have played their instruments more than a year. Grading is primarily based on participation and performance exams. Specific activities are scheduled to encourage and assist students transitioning into high school band programs.

Drama (Semester/.5)

As a student of beginning drama, you will have the opportunity to learn and develop basic aspects of acting and public speaking skills. Included in this course will be lessons in voice usage, stage movement, set design, costume, and role-playing. Students will study units on monologues, interpretive readings, improvisation, duo acting, comedy, and television. Students will actively work on many aspects behind the scenes of theater as well as scene development on and off stage. **(Must have teacher recommendation for this course.)**

Trailblazer Chorus – Boys (Semester/.5)

This is an all boys' chorus for those that have NOT had at least one semester of middle school chorus. This group will join the Trailblazer girls group for concerts. Attendance at evening concerts is required and part of the final grade. A singing solo is required at the end of the semester but an alternate assignment is available.

Trailblazer Chorus – Girls (Semester/.5)

This is an all girls' chorus for those that have NOT had at least one semester of middle school chorus. This group will join the Trailblazer boys group for concerts. Attendance at evening concerts is required and part of the final grade. A singing solo is required at the end of the semester but an alternate assignment is available.

Blazer Pride Chorus – Boys (Semester/.5)

This is an all boys' chorus for those that HAVE had at least one semester of middle school chorus. This group will join the Blazer Pride girls for concerts. Attendance at evening concerts is required and part of the grade. A singing solo is required at the end of the semester but an alternate assignment is available.

Blazer Pride Chorus – Girls (Semester/.5)

This is an all girls' chorus for those that HAVE had at least one semester of middle school chorus. This group will join the Blazer Pride boys for concerts. Attendance at evening concerts is required and part of the grade. A singing solo is required at the end of the semester but an alternate assignment is available.

Show Choir (Yr/1.0)

Show Choir is an ensemble of eighth grade girls who have demonstrated a high level of vocal skill and a true dedication to the art of entertaining. The repertoire will consist basically of pop and modern music, which will include dance movements. In addition to vocal technique training, this class will involve sessions of dance instruction. The students are graded on creating and teaching choreography to their class. This class will have concert performance requirements and additional field trip opportunities. The required dress is a basic pair of black slacks and a white buttoned down shirt. **(Must have teacher recommendation for this course.)**

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 study music theory to support their performance skills. 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.**

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH:

Physical Education/Health (Semester/.5) and (Year/1.0)

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.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE (Optional)

French I & II (Yr/1.0)

This academic elective offers language-intensive experiences for the beginning language student. This class offers the study of the French language and culture. The curriculum emphasizes conversation and communication in practical situations. Students will be focusing on all four skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing in conjunction with the state standards for Foreign Language Learning – Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons, and Communities. **Students must have maintained a B average in 7th grade English to be eligible for this course.**

Spanish I & II (Yr/1.0)

This academic elective offers language-intensive experiences for the beginning language student. This class offers the study of the Spanish language and Hispanic cultures. The curriculum emphasizes conversation and communication in practical situations. Students will be focusing on all four skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing in conjunction with the state standards for Foreign Language Learning - Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons, and Communities. **Students must have taken the 7th grade Spanish class and maintained a B average in 7th grade English to be eligible for this course.**

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION:

Broadcasting (Semester/.5)

Students will be introduced to the equipment and technology used to write, edit, and produce video programs. Students will be responsible for producing short video announcements, commercials, and specials that are broadcast daily over the closed-circuit television system. Public speaking skills and cooperative activities will be major components of this class. **(Must have teacher recommendation for this course.)**

Computers - 8 (Semester/.5)

Students develop touch-typing skills, network, and operating system knowledge using Windows based PCs. A business simulation project allows students to create a complex virtual business web site. Additionally, students design and create a variety of documents related to their virtual business using word processing, spreadsheet, database, graphics, and multimedia applications. Students also create animations, web based forms, multimedia presentations, advertising material related to their business web site.

Technology Lab 2000 (Semester/.5)

Technology Lab 2000 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.

Web Page Design & Digital Photography - 8 (Semester/.5)

Students will design, create, update and enhance the Explorer Middle School web pages using Dreamweaver, Flash and Adobe Photoshop. Students will design, create and maintain their own personal web pages complete with Flash animation and original images. This class will also introduce students to the tools of digital imaging and editing. Students will use digital still cameras, digital video, and scanners to produce and edit images for print and for use on the web. **(Must have teacher recommendation for this course.)**

Yearbook (Yr/1.0)

The yearbook class is a full year class held during the school day. The students chosen will be assigned and be responsible for creating their own pages for our school yearbook. This includes the background, border, and layout design, as well as working with a digital camera. There will be some events outside of school that the students will be required to attend to take pictures for their page. The students chosen will also be expected to have basic knowledge of the computer, be creative, be expressive, be able to work independently, follow directions and be able to meet a deadline. **(Must have teacher recommendation for this course.)**