Middle School Elective Descriptions

**AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination)**

*(7th and 8th graders only)*

AVID is an academic elective course that prepares students for college readiness and success.  This elective is a year-long course offered during the school day.  Students taking AVID will engage in WICOR (Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, Reading) daily as they work together as a learning community to build the skills necessary for academic success for high school and beyond. During 7th grade, AVID students will be introduced to the essentials of AVID such as maintaining an AVID binder, tracking your grades and progress in core classes, and participating in tutorial sessions.  Additionally, you will learn about different career choices and have the opportunity to explore careers that interest you in depth. During 8th grade, AVID students focus on preparing for high school by regularly exhibiting and utilizing strategies for academic success.  Students will continue maintaining an AVID binder, tracking your grades and progress in core classes, and participate in tutorial sessions.   Students will get to explore high school A-G requirements, college placement tests and rigorous high school courses. Throughout the year, AVID students will refine their college & career goals as they plan their transition to high school.

**Multimedia Explorations**

*(All grades)*

Are you artsy, or want to learn how to be? Does technology fascinate you? This class is a blend of both! Taking virtual trips around the world; Researching the web - All will be done in Multimedia Explorations by using Chromebooks.  Learn to incorporate this tool into your everyday life, both at school and at home.  This hands-on class will allow each student to learn to use technology to make their classwork fit with the 21st century. Multimedia Explorations is the fusion of traditional mediums and contemporary ones. You will learn to create 2-D and 3-D art informed by the principles of design and the elements of art. The course will cover traditional mediums such as pencils, watercolor, painting, printmaking, and sculpture. In addition to this, we will incorporate various techniques and new technology onto non customary substrates. Students will be taught to perform art appropriate research and will emerge from this course with a broadened view of what constitutes art. Students will also design the school yearbook!

**Beginning Orchestra**

*(All grades)*

Beginning classes for students wishing to learn how to play a stringed instrument (violin, viola, cello). There will be opportunities for performances at school events, and possibly at off-campus community events.  Students will learn the fundamentals of playing the instrument: Care and handling of instruments, technique, reading music, music theory, following a conductor, and playing in a group.

**Beginning Band**

*(All grades)*

Beginning band is designed for students who are interested in starting an instrument for the first time in middle school. The primary focus for this class is on basic instrumental skill development and music reading. The goal of this class is to develop the student so they can enter into a more advanced band the following year. Students have a choice between flute, clarinet, alto saxophone trumpet, trombone, french horn, and baritone. Students participating in this class are encouraged to practice outside of class time to accelerate their skill development to make them more confident if they decide to pursue band the following year.  Topics/skills covered include:

• Embouchure and Tone Development

• Counting, timing, and rhythmic development

• Reading and notation skills, including sight reading

• Introduction of Scales

• Simple Music Theory

• Development of a vocabulary of musical terms and symbols

• Ear training and listening skills

• Equipment care and maintenance

• Effective practice habits