

Middle School Elective Course Descriptions

Below are electives for which your seventh and eighth grade student may be interested in enrolling for next year. Your child should choose one elective for the fall semester and another elective for the spring. Please note that all electives may not have sufficient interest to be placed on the final class schedule.

Parents of seventh graders, it is important to note that one semester of Introduction to Spanish is required in order to be considered for Spanish I for high school credit in eighth grade.

SEMESTER	CLASS
FALL	Computer Science Discoveries – Class limit is 12 students; the course takes a wide lens on computer science by covering topics such as problem solving, programming, physical computing, user centered design, and data, while inspiring students as they build their own websites, apps, animations, games, and physical computing systems.
FALL	Introduction to Cartooning – Class limit is 16 students; students will learn about the steps of producing a cartoon; students will be able to produce finished pieces.
FALL or SPRING	Middle School Choir – Students will learn to sing standard choral literature, holiday selections, and sacred music; instruments may be added and students with training will accompany singers. Students will perform as part of this class.
FALL or SPRING	Introduction to Theater – Class limit is 20 students; students will learn about the history of theater; types of drama, script writing; stage directions; tasks required for theatrical productions. Preference will be given to eighth grade students who have not taken this class prior.
FALL or SPRING	Introduction to Spanish for Seventh Grade – Successful completion of this class is a prerequisite for enrollment in Spanish I in eighth grade; students learn vocabulary, syntax, grammar, spelling, and conversation. Students must have a minimum of 90 in math and ELA classes in sixth grade to enroll in this class.
FALL or SPRING	Introduction to Art – Class limit is 16 students; students will learn about design, color, and work in various media. Preference will be given to eighth grade students who have not taken this class prior.
FALL or SPRING	Math: You Can Do It! – Do you find math confusing or boring? Would you like to feel more comfortable with how numbers work together? Is it even possible for math to make sense and be SUPER useful to you? Through direct instruction, practice and IXL, students will attack problem areas in math in order to build math confidence and success.
FALL or SPRING	Problem Solving through Strategic Games – Strengthening problem-solving and strategic skills through challenging strategic games. Risk, Ticket to Ride, Clue, Catan, Checkers, Chess, Connect Four, and The Game of Life are among some of the games used to enhance logic, mental math, and creativity. Social skills are also stressed as students learn good sportsmanship by working through challenges in an appropriate way.
FALL or SPRING	STEM – Class limit is 14 students; students will maximize learning and help foster meaningful connections in various areas of science. Tomorrow's scientists and engineers will research, collaborate, and innovate as they explore the world of science.
SPRING	Introduction to Spanish for Eighth Grade – Students learn vocabulary, syntax, grammar, spelling, and conversation. This class is beneficial for eighth graders who will take Spanish I in ninth grade.
SPRING	Creative Writing – Students will explore different genres of writing, through both reading and writing, as well as the other necessary elements needed to improve writing and composition skills. This course is designed with the goal of inspiring students to develop original pieces and ideas. Through writing and critical thinking, students will learn to become better readers, writers and thinkers. Writing genres covered are autobiographies, storytelling, fairy tales and myths, fantasies, short stories and journals.
SPRING	Introduction to Architectural Drawing – Class limit is 16 students; students will learn about proportion, 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional drawing, perspective, and principles of drafting.
SPRING	Money Management – Using resources from Ramsey Education, students will learn about managing their finances now and in the future. Students will also explore careers and learn to manage personal finances in a specific job. For example, how much income could you expect as an entry-level accountant? How much is taken out of your monthly income, how much does housing, food, entertainment, transportation, college debt, and insurance cost? Find out how to plan for now and later.

