

Communications Path

Debate: The art of debate introduces students to literacy-rich activities that heavily engage students in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and research—all vital skills for the 21st century. Students will learn to construct unbiased arguments for/against topics with evidence from their research to support their claims.

Health & Physical Education Path

Physical Education: In physical education, students will learn how to participate in a variety of activities and game-like situations which focus on various motor and manipulative skills, movement concepts, physical fitness, personal and social responsibility, self-expression, safety, and enjoyment.

Health: Students learn how to live healthy lifestyles and reduce their risks for unhealthy behaviors. Additionally, age-appropriate instruction regarding safety, personal health and wellness, mental and emotional health, healthy eating, alcohol and other drugs, tobacco, violence prevention and human growth and anatomy will be implemented.

Fine Arts Path

Band: This performance-based class is the middle school's most advanced performing ensemble for wind and percussion instrumentalists. This year long course introduces "comprehensive musicianship" through performance of challenging and varied literature. Skills and concepts from the previous year are developed and expanded upon. In addition to continued refinement of individual performance skills, greater emphasis is placed on ensemble performance skills. Students will continue to develop their knowledge of music theory, begin to analyze and evaluate music, and use critical thinking skills to make refinements in their performance. Individual and ensemble performance skills will be expanded through musical expression and technical accuracy. Individual growth and achievement are encouraged through participation in adjudicated solo and ensemble festivals, district honor bands, and private lessons. Participation in concert performances outside of regular class hours is required. **This course requires a yearlong commitment.**

Orchestra: This performance-based class is the most advanced year-long course for string players. Skills and concepts from the previous year are developed and expanded upon. In addition to continued refinement of individual performance skills, greater emphasis is placed on ensemble performance skills. Students will continue to develop their knowledge of music theory, begin to analyze and evaluate music, and use critical thinking skills to make refinements in their performance. Individual and ensemble performance skills will be expanded through musical expression and technical accuracy. Individual growth and achievement are encouraged through participation in adjudicated solo and ensemble festivals, district honor orchestras, and private lessons. Participation in concert performances outside of regular class hours is required. **This course requires a yearlong commitment.**

Chorus: This performance-based class focuses on continued and consistent demonstration of proper breath control and correct singing posture. Students demonstrate open vowel sounds, properly articulated consonants, and appropriate tone quality on more advanced repertoire. Students demonstrate more advanced proficiency in sight-reading at the expected competency level and read music with more complex melodies and rhythms. Participation in concert performances outside of regular class hours is required. **This course requires a yearlong commitment.**

Visual Arts: In visual arts class students experiment with various art forms such as ceramics, drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, design, crafts, and/or photography. (Semester-long)

Visual Art Comprehensive I (2D) and II (3D): Visual Art Comprehensive I (2D) and II (3D) is the first course in the Visual Arts pathway. This course encompasses exploration of image and makes use of techniques in drawing, printmaking, lettering, painting, and collage. This course also involves the exploration of concepts and techniques of contraction, assemblage and media manipulations. A variety of two-dimensional and three-dimensional designs are created. Historical and contemporary achievements in two and three-dimensional art are explored. Upon completion of the year-long Visual Art Comp I & II students will have the opportunity to submit a Portfolio to the High School for Assessment.

Yearbook: This course is offered fall semester only.

Theatre Arts: Theatre is a collaborative form of fine art that allows students to become live performers, who present the experience of a real or imagined event before a live audience.

STEM Path

Trouble-shooting in Physical Science: Through the integration of science and engineering practices with content, students develop a strong understanding of life science as well as problem-solving and critical-thinking skills. In this class, The purpose is to give all students an overview of common strands in physical science that connect to our daily lives including, but not limited to, the nature of matter, conservation of energy, energy transformations, conservation of matter, kinematics, and dynamics.

Computer Science: Foundations of Interactive Design covers a variety of topics including, web page design, careers in information technology, game design, and software testing and debugging. Students will create a single functional web page using a web development platform based on a design mock up and user requirements, as well as design digital products that reveal a professional layout and look by applying design principles. Throughout the semester students will have the opportunity to model, design, and then debug both a website and a gaming simulation. This eighth grade Connections class provides an introductory look at careers in the field of Graphic and Digital Design. **This course is by invitation only for students who have met the necessary criteria.**

Engineering: 8th Grade **Technological Systems** covers a variety of topics including technological systems and subsystems, the core concepts of engineering and technology, the engineering design process and problem solving skills in developing a technological product, maintaining a

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portfolio through the engineering design log, leadership skills and work ethics. Students will examine the nature of developing technological products and systems, as well as explaining the engineering design process in the problem solving process. Throughout the semester students will have the opportunity to apply the engineering design process to solving real world problems, analyze data to make data-driven decisions, examine experimental design, and demonstrate the concepts they learn through hands-on projects. This eighth grade Connections class provides an introductory look at careers in the manufacturing, electrical, mechanical, and related engineering fields. **This course is by invitation only for students who have met the necessary criteria.**

Business Education: 8th Grade Business Education covers a variety of topics including employability skills, business foundations, information systems, marketing, and financial literacy. Students will examine the basics of entrepreneurship, as well as explore the basics of marketing using a variety of software applications and multimedia tools. Throughout the semester students will have the opportunity to formulate a business plan based on personal interests, hobbies, and/or skills sets and demonstrate an understanding of economics using different types of software applications. This eighth grade Connections class provides an introductory look at careers in the business, marketing, and financial services fields. **This course is by invitation only for students who have met the necessary criteria.**