

J.O. Combs Middle School
Course Description Catalog
2016-2017



J.O. Combs Unified School District
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<http://jocombs.org>

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Combs Middle School
“Home of the Cougars”

Mission Statement

Combs Middle School creates motivated life-long learners and socially responsible individuals.

Vision Statement

“Cougars Connecting with Character”

Core Philosophies

- Students strive to grow academically, socially, and personally.
- Students have the right to learn, and teachers have the right to teach; therefore, no student should keep students from learning or teachers from teaching.
- Students shall do no harm and be respectful of themselves, others, and their school at all times.
- Students are responsible for the decisions they make, should enjoy the experience of making appropriate decisions, and must accept the consequences of making inappropriate decisions.

Academic Responsibilities: 3R’s – Record, Retain, and Recall

Students will work to...

- Record information accurately and completely so that it may be understood
- Retain information by being prepared for class, completing all academic work as assigned, producing high quality work, participating in class, asking questions, studying daily, and seeking help when needed
- Recall information in various settings in order to demonstrate the ability to apply, comprehend, analyze, synthesize, and evaluate what is being learned

All of this happens when a student strives to do his /her best at all times.

School Values

Trustworthiness: Demonstrate courage, honesty and loyalty to support family, friends and school.

Respect: Recognize the dignity and worth of each individual with acceptance of the diverse cultures, talents, and skills that each person brings to the school community.

Responsibility: Acknowledge, accept, and meet one’s obligations in an environment dedicated to life-long learning, accountability, and perseverance.

Fairness: Treat people equally without prejudice or favoritism.

Caring: Demonstrate concern for others, show empathy and compassion for all, and communicate with a school staff member anytime someone may be a danger to himself/herself or someone else or may make an inappropriate decision that will impact the school or community.

Citizenship: Work for the common good by volunteering, protecting, and participating in the school community while respecting authority and the law.

School Pledge

“Today I will do more than I have to do; I will treat others as I want to be treated, and I will become a better person.”

Course Selection Procedures and Policies

The course selection process allows students an opportunity to pick their courses for the upcoming school year. It is very important for each student (and his/her parents) to meet the established deadlines of this process to assure that he/she will be able to take the courses selected. If at any time a question arises regarding this process, please feel free to contact the middle school counselor at (480) 882-3518.

The goal of the entire staff is to make the course selection process as successful as possible for each family!

Course Selection Deadlines

For students who will attend Combs Middle School, course selection for the upcoming school year takes place on the elementary campus for sixth graders (who will become seventh graders) and the middle school campus for seventh graders (who will become eighth graders). Any newly enrolling student completes this process at the middle school campus.

Every attempt is made to encourage students to select courses on time. Because schools must complete this important process in part to hire adequate numbers of teachers and plan for adequate numbers of class sections, an administrator or a counselor may select courses for students who do not complete their responsibilities in a timely manner.

For students who move into district boundaries after the course selection process is completed, forms should be completed as soon as possible; course selection packets are available in the administration office.

Course Selection Change Procedures

Once a student has completed the course selection process, changes will be made only under the following circumstances:

- Student does not meet the prerequisite or did not complete the prerequisite course
- Student is placed in a class inappropriate to his/her ability level
- Clerical or computer error is made in course assignment

Please exercise particular caution in the selection of elective courses. Read course descriptions to get as much information about elective options as possible while participating in the course selection process.

Some courses require teacher approval or recommendation to ensure correct placement. Those courses are noted as such in the prerequisite section of this guide.

Scheduling Considerations

Once the student course selection forms are submitted, the scheduling process begins. Initial scheduling is done randomly by the computer. If a scheduling conflict surfaces, an opportunity is created to make an alternate course selection.

Sometimes students will find that a class is scheduled for one period during first semester and another period during second semester. This occurs when classes must be scheduled during particular periods. When this does have to take place, every effort is made to make certain that students have the same instructor for both semesters.

Students need to remember that schedules are subject to change during the first weeks of each semester. Because summer registration can be unpredictable and new sections may need to be dropped/added to the master schedule, student adjustments in schedules may need to occur to balance class sizes. Please know that this will be done only when absolutely necessary.

Schedule Change Procedures

A schedule change must be requested within the first five (5) days of the school year. If the change is approved, the student will receive a copy of the new schedule. Until that time, the student is expected to attend classes as they show on the current schedule.

Changing from an advanced class to a regular level class (or vice versa) may occur at any time. The change requires the principal's approval and is partially dependent on space being available in the requested class.

Teacher Change Requests

One aspect of the educational and maturation process for all students is to develop skills to be able to be successful in classrooms with a wide variety of teaching styles. If you find that you are having difficulty with one of your teachers, you are advised to follow a two-step process to resolve the problem.

1. Outside of class time, the student meets with the teacher to discuss the challenges that exist. The student is encouraged to include one or both parents in that discussion. As a general rule, most challenges can be resolved once they are openly discussed in this type of conference.
2. If the student (or parent) doesn't feel the problem has been remedied after talking with the teacher, the student may contact the counselor to request a conference. The purpose of the conference would be to develop a plan for success in the class (that does not consist of making a teacher change).

If an administrator determines that a teacher change is warranted and recommended, the administrator will make the teacher change assignment that is the least disruptive to both the student's schedule and to the balancing of class sizes.

Academic Probation

Combs Middle School places a high value on the academic standing and progress of students. Any student who is deficient (fails one or more classes) may be placed on Academic Probation. Students on Academic Probation may be placed on an academic contract which is an individualized plan developed for the student in order to correct his/her academic deficiencies in a timely manner.

Cougar Skills for Success (CSS)

The purpose of Cougar Skills for Success (CSS) is to provide students with a setting where a teacher can provide assistance and monitor academic progress. Within this framework, teachers can work with students who need assistance with assignments, make up tests, and complete other assigned work. Students may also visit the counselor, use the library, or go to the computer lab. Students will also use time in CSS to participate in the Sustained Silent Reading (SSR) program. Cougar Skills for Success is also used as a vehicle for announcements, videos, assemblies and activities. While Cougar Skills for Success provides many opportunities for obtaining assistance from teachers and completing assignments, some students may need additional time with teachers before and after school in order to succeed academically.

Honors Program

The Combs Middle School Honors Program is designed to provide enrichment opportunities for students who have demonstrated high achievement and high motivation. The following criteria are used in the selection process for this program:

1. Standardized tests
2. Teacher recommendations
3. Previous placement in an advanced/honors class
4. Previous grades from last year's classes
5. Placement testing

The program functions in the areas of language arts, social studies, science, and math. Teachers work to develop activities that encompass the skills required in the four disciplines. Activities are designed to aid students in working on the advanced development of higher-level thinking skills, critical thinking, and creative problem-solving techniques.

Middle School Course Requirements

Students are required to take one year of language arts, social studies, math, and science in both the seventh and eighth grade. The availability of elective classes, however, will depend on the grade level of the student, special program eligibility, the number of students who register for the course, and school resources. Counselors are available to help students select their classes.

High School Program Planning

During the spring of the eighth grade year, all students, in consultation with their families, will begin to select courses for their freshman year of high school. Proper planning ensures that students meet all of the requirements for high school graduation. To assist with this planning, review the chart below that lists the course requirements for high school graduation. You will also find a mathematics course sequence chart on the following page to further assist you with this planning process.

In addition to the requirements listed below, students graduating in 2017 and beyond will be required to pass a civics test. Special Education students are required to complete the course of student as prescribed in their Individual Education Plan (IEP).

J.O. Combs Unified School District High School Graduation Requirements

Curriculum	Graduation Requirement
English	4 credits
Math	4 credits
Laboratory Science	3 credits
Social Studies	3 credits
Arts/Career Technical Education	1 credit
Elective	7 credits
Total Required	22 credits

Students can earn high school credit while at Combs Middle School for math and Spanish.

Mathematics Course Sequence

Grade	On level	Accelerated	Accelerated
7 th	7 th grade Math	8 th grade Math	Algebra I
8 th	8 th grade Math	Algebra I	Geometry (only available at Combs High School)
9 th	Algebra I	Honors Geometry	Honors Algebra 2
10 th	Geometry	Honors Algebra 2	Pre-Calculus or Advanced Algebra w/Trigonometry or College Algebra (Dual Enrollment)
11 th	Algebra 2	Pre-Calculus or Advanced Algebra w/Trigonometry or College Algebra (Dual Enrollment)	AP Calculus AB (prerequisite Pre-Calculus) or College Algebra (Dual Enrollment)
12 th	Pre-Calculus or Advanced Algebra w/Trigonometry or College Algebra (Dual Enrollment) or Math for Business & Personal Finance	AP Calculus AB (prerequisite Pre-Calculus) or College Algebra (Dual Enrollment)	AP Calculus BC or College Algebra (Dual Enrollment)

Spanish Course Sequence

Grade	Course
9 th – 12 th	Spanish 1 • Offered in 8 th grade for high school credit. See course description for more details.
9 th – 12 th	Spanish 2
9 th – 12 th	Honors Spanish 2
10 th – 12 th	Spanish 3
10 th – 12 th	AP Spanish Language
10 th – 12 th	AP Spanish Literature and Culture

Course Offering List – 2016-2017

English Language Arts (ELA)

English Language Arts 7
English Language Arts 7 – Honors

English Language Arts 8
English Language Arts 8 - Honors

Math

Math 7
Math 7 – Honors

Math 8
Algebra I

Science

Science 7
Science 7 – Honors

Science 8
Science 8 – Honors

Social Studies

Social Studies 7
Social Studies 7 – Honors

Social Studies 8
Social Studies 8 – Honors

Electives

Art

Introduction to Art
Art Exploration

Band

Advanced Band
Beginning Band
Intermediate Band
Jazz Band

Chorus

Chorus
Advanced Chorus

Guitar

Guitar I

Orchestra

Beginning Orchestra
Intermediate Orchestra
Advanced Orchestra

Career & Technical Education

Careers & Your Future
Communication & Media Technologies
Digital Publications and Yearbook
Family & Consumer Science I (FACS I)
Family & Consumer Science II (FACSII)
Technology I
Theatre & Stagecraft

Physical Education

Boys PE
Girls PE

World Languages

Introductory Spanish
Spanish I

Course Descriptions

English Language Arts (ELA)

English Language Arts 7

Full Year

Grade Level: 7

Prerequisite: None

This course integrates reading and English to enhance students' vocabulary, knowledge of literature, reading strategies, grammar, and writing. Literary genres include but are not limited to: short stories, novels, poetry, and various forms of nonfiction. Writing genres may include literary analysis, persuasive writing, creative writing, expository, and narrative. In addition, students will review and refine research skills and five-paragraph essay format.

English Language Arts 7 – Honors

Full Year

Grade Level: 7

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation, at least 90% in 6th grade English Language Arts or at least 80% in 6th grade Honors English Language Arts, and at least a seventh grade reading level (based on AR ZPD)

This course will include all of the skills and genres present in the general classes, but will explore each in greater depth, and additional genres may be introduced. Students will be held to higher expectations in both conduct and work products in advanced sections.

English Language Arts 8

Full Year

Grade Level: 8

Prerequisite: None

Both English and reading have been integrated into this curriculum. Essential reading strategies and language skills are taught with a heavy emphasis on composition skills. Students in this course will study composition techniques, literary skills, spelling, vocabulary in context and basic grammar. Literary genres include: short stories, novels, poetry, and nonfiction selections.

English Language Arts 8 – Honors

Full Year

Grade Level: 8

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation, at least 90% in 7th grade English Language Arts or at least 80% in 7th grade Honors English Language Arts, and at least an eighth grade reading level (based on AR ZPD)

This course is designed for those students who possess the motivation and skill levels necessary for the accelerated classroom. Emphasis will be placed on vocabulary development, writing techniques and literary analysis. Students in this course will also study major literary devices and techniques, as well as read brief selections from literature.

Math

Math 7

Full Year

Grade Level: 7

Prerequisite: None

This course will cover topics which include number sense and operations with an emphasis on integers, data analysis, probability/discrete mathematics, patterns, algebraic thinking and functions, geometry, measurement, problem solving, structure and logic. Students will use reasoning and communication skills within real-world problem solving situations throughout the course.

Math 7 – Honors**Full Year**

Grade Level: 7

Prerequisite: Grade of 75% or better in Honors Math 6 or 90% in Math 6, and teacher approval

This course is the same as the Math 8 course, and will include the study of number theory, abstract thinking, algebra, geometry and integrated math. The major topics covered are; number systems, algebraic functions, decimals, expressions, geometry, equation solving, and integers. This course will prepare students for Algebra 1. Students will use reasoning and communication skills within real-world problem solving situations throughout the course.

Math 8**Full Year**

Grade Level: 8

Prerequisite: None

This course will include the study of number theory, abstract thinking, algebra, geometry and integrated math. The major topics covered are; number systems, algebraic functions, decimals, expressions, geometry, equation solving, and integers. This course will prepare students for Algebra 1. Students will use reasoning and communication skills within real-world problem solving situations throughout the course.

Algebra I**Full Year**

Grade Level: 8

Prerequisite: Grade of 75% or better in Honors Math 7 or 90% in Math and teacher approval

This class is the same class that is offered to Algebra I high school students. Algebra 1 is taught using a blended learning model of direct instruction and online program called ALEKS. All students will be given a pre-assessment during their first week of enrollment. All students that score 15 percent or lower on their assessment will be required to complete 85 percent of a Pre-Algebra course on ALEKS prior to beginning Algebra 1. Course content: review of pre-algebra topics, real number systems, polynomials, and signed numbers

Science**Science 7****Full Year**

Grade Level: 7

Prerequisite: None

This course emphasizes the skills of scientific inquiry and builds on the processes of developing questions, experimental design, and the use of statistical methods for data analysis. Students will demonstrate scientific literacy in the environmental, earth, and space sciences. Seventh grade science explores the impact of science and technology on society, and expands science learning in areas such as astronomy, earth processes, populations/ecosystems, and environmental science.

Science 7 – Honors**Full Year**

Grade Level: 7

Prerequisite: Teacher approval, 80% or higher in Honors Science 6 or 90% or higher in Science 6, 7th grade reading level (based on AR ZPD), and 80% or higher in Math 6

This course is intended for those who have the motivation and skills that are necessary for the accelerated learning environment. This course not only emphasizes the proficiency outlined in the general science description, but also includes more collaborative group work and problem solving skills. In addition, more rigorous curriculum assignments and more in-depth research projects that aim to further develop higher level thinking skills will be assigned.

Science 8

Full Year

Grade Level: 8

Prerequisite: None

This course is designed to teach 8th grade students basic fundamentals of chemistry, physics, and biology. The chemistry section will begin the study of the atom; physics will be focusing on motion and Newton's laws, the genetic component of biology and the structural and behavioral aspects of adaptations. This inquiry-based course will teach hands-on laboratory skills and methods as a means to learning the content curriculum. This course will reflect on the nature and history of science as well as looking into the impact science has on modern society.

Science 8 – Honors

Full Year

Grade Level: 8

Prerequisite: Teacher approval, 80% or higher in Honors Science 7 or 90% or higher in Science 7, 8th grade reading level (based on AR ZPD), and 80% or higher in Math 7

This course is designed for students who possess the motivation/skill levels for the accelerated classroom. This course is designed to teach students basic fundamentals of chemistry, physics and biology with a focus on higher level thinking. The chemistry section will begin the study of the atom; physics will focus on motion, Newton's laws, the genetic component of biology, and the structural/behavioral aspects of adaptations. This inquiry-based course will teach hands-on laboratory skills and methods as a means to learning the curriculum. This course will reflect on the nature and history of science as well as look into the impact science has on modern society. Students will have the opportunity to master the curriculum with a more rigorous approach which may include additional assignments.

Social Studies

Social Studies 7

Full Year

Grade Level: 7

Prerequisite: None

This course is an overview of the people, ideas, and events that shaped the United States from post-Civil War Reconstruction through World War II, including industrialization and immigration, the Progressive Era and Imperialism, World War I, and the Great Depression. Government policies, processes, and principles are integrated into the content, along with the impact of cultural, geographic, and economic influences. Seventh graders develop skills in critical analysis, and creative thinking, such as constructing sound arguments, assessing credibility, explaining causes/effects, and examining patterns of change over time. Insight into the development of the United States as a world power and the effect of past events on the present is emphasized throughout the seventh grade course of study.

Social Studies 7 – Honors

Full Year

Grade Level: 7

Prerequisite: Teacher approval and grade of 85% or higher in either Social Studies 6 or Honors Social Studies 6

This course will embark on a comprehensive and chronological study of American History beginning with post Civil War Reconstruction and ending with World War II. Students will be presented with the story of the United States as a noble experiment of a constitutional republic. The student's should be able to recognize that America's ongoing struggle to live up to the ideas expressed in the Declaration of Independence and Constitution is the struggle to maintain and preserve our national heritage of *e pluribus unum*. Students will use inquiry, reasoning, and research skills (aided by appropriate technologies) to gather, interpret, and analyze information. Their abilities to engage in civic discourse will be improved by using their skills of oral and written expression.

Social Studies 8

Full Year

Grade Level: 8

Prerequisite: None

This course incorporates the study of the foundations of the U.S. Government, civics, American history, world history, geography, economics, relationships and interactions among regions and contemporary issues in the world up to the 21st Century. This course will provide students with the understanding, knowledge and skills necessary to make reasonable judgments as active participants in today's democracy, history, and current events.

Social Studies 8 – Honors

Full Year

Grade Level: 8

Prerequisite: Teacher approval and grade of 85% or higher in Social Studies 7 or Honors Social Studies 7

This course is designed for those students who possess the motivation and skill levels necessary for the accelerated classroom. This course incorporates the study of the foundations of the U.S. Government, civics, American History, World History, geography, economics, relationships and interactions among regions and contemporary issues in the world up to the 21st Century. This course will provide students with the understanding, knowledge and skills necessary to make reasonable judgments as active participants in today's democracy, history, and current events.

Art

Introduction to Art

Full Year

Grade Level: 7, 8

Prerequisite: None

This survey course will allow students to participate in 2D & 3D projects that highlight the social, cultural & historical significance of art making. Master works will be examined and discussed in terms of composition and technique and also as a reflection of the time and place in which they were created. A large variety of media including, pencil, pastels, paper, watercolor and clay will be used to explore the formal elements and principles of art (basic art terminology for the composition and critique of artworks). Engagement in the art world is encouraged through community service and participation in art contests and shows.

Art Exploration

Full Year

Grade Level: 8

Prerequisite: Introduction to Art or teacher approval

Note: This course may be taken twice - teacher approval required for second year

This course will allow students to learn more advanced 2D & 3D art techniques and will examine the connection between media and message through more in-depth projects. Students will select from an extensive variety of media, including, pencil, pastels, paper, paint, ink and clay. An understanding of the formal elements of art and basic techniques taught in Art Survey is needed. Students will explore opportunities to pursue creative art experiences as they proceed to higher educational settings.

Career and Technical Education

Careers and Your Future

Full Year

Grade Level: 7, 8

Prerequisite: None

This course provides students with an inside look at the many fascinating career opportunities along with the uses of media technology used in many career fields. Students explore their interests, aptitudes, and skills plus their individual learning styles using information software in order to identify careers best suited for them. Units may include uses of technology in digital photography, videography, and graphic design, as well as discovering personal strengths and interests while discovering fascinating future careers.

Communication and Media Technologies

Full Year

Grade Level: 7, 8

Prerequisite: None

This course is designed to help students explore the impact of technology in the areas of digital photography, graphic and web design, and video production. Students will use computer applications to manage media such as photos and videos as well as create their own original artistic designs and web pages.

Digital Publications and Yearbook**Full Year**

Grade Level: 7, 8

Prerequisite: teacher approval

Digital Publications and Yearbook will instruct students in the basic skills necessary to complete various types of publications. This includes the investigation of design and journalism related careers and employability skills. Objectives also include page layout design, journalistic writing, digital photography, typography, and graphic design applications including open source graphic design applications Scribus and Gimp. Students wishing to take this course should be creative, self-motivated, enthusiastic, responsible, and organized. Enrollment is limited and teacher approval is required.

Family and Consumer Science (FACS I)**Full Year**

Grade Level: 7, 8

Prerequisite: None

This course will allow students to explore areas such as culinary arts, sewing and life skills. Food labs will consist of learning kitchen safety, sanitation procedures, measuring techniques, and basic cooking techniques. Students will also be working on sewing projects, beginning with hand sewing. Life skills will include the areas of decision making, goal setting, and friendship.

Family and Consumer Science (FACS II)**Full Year**

Grade Level: 8

Prerequisite: FACS I

This course will allow students to explore areas such as culinary arts, sewing and life skills. Food labs will consist of intermediate cooking techniques. Students will be introduced to the sewing machine. Life skills will include career exploration.

Technology I**Full Year**

Grade Level: 7, 8

Prerequisite: None

This course will cover basic Paint, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, and Microsoft PowerPoint skills in addition to Internet Safety. Students will learn; to use their toolbars, copy, paste, format text and graphics, add tables and columns, borders, and much, much more. Microsoft Publisher will be utilized to create cards, brochures, and newsletters. Students will also learn how to evaluate the reliability of information on internet sites and how to use the internet for research. This class sometimes works in small groups so students can draw on each other's strengths. Students will also be introduced to the correct Typing Posture and Process and have an opportunity to improve their typing speed.

Theatre & Stagecraft**Full Year**

Grade Level: 7, 8

Prerequisite: None

This course provides students with the opportunity to learn the history of theatre and various theatrical productions along with a variety of stage craft elements. Students will learn to use elements of storytelling and analyzing plays, musical texts and performances and apply them to basic acting skills that include individual and group performances of pantomime, radio shows, scenes and monologues. The stagecraft element will include the construction of scenic designs and creating costumes for performances.

Band**Beginning Band****Full Year**

Grade Level: 7, 8

Prerequisite: no experience

This course will allow students to learn the fundamentals in preparation to advance to Intermediate or Advanced Band. Students will be expected to prepare for and play concerts. Students must own or rent instrument.

Intermediate Band

Full Year

Grade Level 7, 8

Prerequisite: At least 1 year experience and interview/audition conducted by Middle School Director

This course will allow students to strengthen the fundamentals and start adding advanced techniques in preparation to proceed to Advanced Band. Students will be expected to prepare for and play concerts. Students must own or rent instrument.

Advanced Band

Full Year

Grade Level: 7, 8

Prerequisite: 1or more years experience and interview/audition conducted by Middle School Director

This course will allow students to learn very challenging concert music and master advanced playing techniques. Students will be expected to prepare for and play concerts and festivals. Students must own or rent instrument.

Jazz Band

Full Year

Grade Level: 7, 8

Prerequisite: 1or more years experience on instrument and interview/audition conducted by Middle School Director. Students must also be enrolled in Intermediate/Advanced Band or Orchestra.

This course will allow students to learn jazz/pop/and stage music and students will be expected to prepare for and play concerts. This class simultaneously builds and expands upon the foundation being built in concert band and orchestra. Students must own or rent instrument (instruments in jazz band are trumpet, saxophone, trombone, bass, guitar, drum set, and piano).

Orchestra

Beginning Orchestra

Full Year

Grade Level: 7, 8

Prerequisite: None

This course is the entry level orchestra at Combs Middle School. Students will develop basic string techniques and note reading skills. In addition, reading and performance skills are stressed in preparation for more advanced orchestra levels. These students are expected to be able to play in various keys and play scales in one octave. They are expected to progress through and into 2 octave scales and add vibrato to their skill set. Students in this group are expected to practice no less than two hours per week. This is imperative for the students' success along with their rapid progression and development. This ensemble will prepare and perform concerts each semester, some of which may be other than during school hours. Special concert attire may be worn. Students should own or rent instrument.

Intermediate Orchestra

Full Year

Grade Level: 7, 8

Prerequisite: Minimum 1 year experience and interview/audition conducted by Middle School Orchestra Director

Note: exceptions to this would be returning *Intermediate Orchestra* members.

This course is a bridge between the beginning and Concert/Advanced Orchestras. These students are expected to be able to shift, play in various keys, play scales in two octaves and vibrate. During the year, there are several performances that this orchestra participates in, and students are expected to have these dates marked in their family calendars from the first week of school. Additionally, there are festivals that may be attended depending on the level and progress of the group. Students in this group are expected to practice no less than two hours per week. This is imperative for success and rapid progression and development. Students will learn the fundamentals in preparation to advance into Concert/Advanced orchestras. Special concert attire may be worn. Students should own or rent instrument.

Advanced Orchestra

Full Year

Grade Level: 7, 8

Prerequisite: Minimum 2 years of experience and interview/audition conducted by Middle School Orchestra Director

Note: exceptions to this would be returning *Advanced Orchestra* members.

This course is for the orchestra that is the flagship of our program. These students are expected to be able to shift, play in various keys, play scales and arpeggios in three octaves and vibrate. During the year, there are several performances that this orchestra participates in, and students are expected to have these dates marked in their family calendars from the first week of school. Additionally, there are festivals that may be attended depending on the level and progress of the group. Students in this group are expected to practice no less than three hours per week. This is imperative for rapid progression and development. Special concert attire may be worn. Students should own or rent instrument.

Chorus

Chorus

Full Year

Grade Level: 7, 8

Prerequisite: None

This course will develop performance skills in reading vocal music. This ensemble will prepare and perform concerts each semester, some of which may be other than during school hours. Special concert attire may be worn.

Advanced Chorus

Full Year

Grade Level: 8

Prerequisite: Minimum 1 year experience and interview/audition conducted by Middle School Choir Director

This course will develop advanced performance skills in reading & performing vocal music. This ensemble will prepare and perform concerts each semester, some of which may be other than during school hours. Special concert attire may be worn.

Guitar

Guitar I

Full Year

Grade Level: 7, 8

Prerequisite: None

This course will allow students to learn the fundamentals in preparation to continue at the level of self-endeavor or private lessons. Students should own or rent acoustic guitar.

Physical Education

Boys/Girls P.E.

Full Year

Grade Level: 7, 8

Prerequisite: None

Note: This course may be taken each year the student attends middle school

This course provides varied activities to meet the physical needs and interests of the students. This class helps students to accept responsibility for their own actions and social interactions. Students will be encouraged to apply knowledge from this class to help develop healthy attitudes and habits. Physical Education stimulates leadership qualities and encourages good sportsmanship. Students will recognize different activities available as a source of recreation.

Spanish

Introductory Spanish

Full Year

Grade Level: 7, 8

Prerequisite: None

This course is a study of the skills necessary to gain background knowledge in the Spanish language. The major topics covered will include speaking, oral comprehension, reading, writing, grammar and spelling. This course is a wonderful introductory course to Spanish at the seventh and eighth grade levels. This course in many ways will be similar in its rigor to a core subject area course.

Spanish I

Full Year

Grade Level: 8

Prerequisite: None

This course is an in-depth study of the skills necessary to broaden knowledge in the Spanish language. Students will develop stronger skills in speaking, reading, writing and listening. This course will also help build a wider vocabulary and incorporate more complex grammatical structures. This course in many ways will be similar in its rigor to a core subject area course. Because this course counts for high school credit, students must pass the high school final exam in order to earn the high school credit.