

## **8th Grade Exploratory Course Descriptions**

**\*\*Unless noted otherwise, classes are full year classes and will require a full year commitment**

### **Performing and Visual Arts**

#### **Band 3 (Full Year)**

**Description:** This course is for students who have taken two or more years of band. Students will continue developing tone and technique on their instruments to prepare for the demands of high school band performance. Students will be required to participate in evening concerts, tours, school assemblies, and large group festivals. They will have opportunity to participate in solo/ensemble festivals, all-city band, and a competition at Frontier City.

#### **Orchestra 3 (Full Year)**

**Description:** This course is for students who have taken two or more years of orchestra. Students will continue developing tone and technique on their instruments to prepare for the demands of high school orchestra performance. Students will be required to participate in evening concerts, tours, school assemblies, and large group festivals. They will have opportunity to participate in solo/ensemble festivals, all-city strings, and a competition at Frontier City.

#### **Choir 3 (Full Year)**

**Description:** This choir is a performance-based class. Students will develop vocal music skills centered on performance in the choral setting. School concerts, evening concerts, or other public performances may be required. Students may also be asked to purchase a choir outfit.

#### **Panther Men's Ensemble (Full Year)**

**Description:** The young musicians in this class will learn the basic elements of music and vocal performance. Students will also learn and master singing techniques and develop singing skills centered on performance in the choral setting. School concerts and or other public performances will be required for this course. Students will be asked to purchase a choir outfit.

#### **Visual Arts 7/8 (Full or Half year)**

This intermediate course is designed to give artists a more in depth experience of art by exploring how different cultures throughout history have used art to communicate their ideas and decorate their spaces. Students will be required to write about and discuss artworks, as well as practice specific art techniques and styles used by artists throughout history and around the world. At the end of the course, students will have working knowledge of art using drawing, painting, ceramics, sculpture, printmaking, sewing and weaving techniques.

#### **Intermediate Theatre 7/8 (Full or Half Year)**

**Description:** Students will study acting techniques, memorization, improvisation, voice, diction, and stage movement. Students will perform monologues, duets, one-act plays, and poetry. Dramatic work will be culturally relevant and academically rigorous. Projects and daily activities will engage students in generating ideas, planning, collaborating, and responding appropriately to questions, reading, writing, speaking, and performing.

## Other Cultural Offerings

### Consortium: Greek and Roman Mythology (Full Year)

Through **reading**, we will explore the mythology of the Greeks and Romans—including gods, heroes, and monsters and the stories the cultures told about them. We will also explore the history behind the myths. Class will rely heavily on reading, handouts, lecture and discussion.

### Consortium: Norse Mythology (Semester)

Through **reading**, we will explore the mythology of the Norse—including gods, heroes, and monsters and the stories the culture told about them. We will also explore the history behind the myths as well as learning about Norse culture. Class will rely heavily on reading, handouts, lecture and discussion

### Comparative Mythology/World Mythology (Semester)

Students will read and study myths from multiple cultures and sources focusing main themes found in them. Myths will be studied as unique expressions of individual cultures and also as universal ideas. Included will be stories that are still treated as sacred (Genesis) and those that are not (Greek myths). I do not care what a student's are or are not and do not intend to teach that one version is 'right' or 'true' and that others are wrong. We will simply be looking at them as stories (*myth* means *story*) that reflect distinct cultures and time periods.

### Women's Cultural Studies Course: 7-8 grade girls

This class will be an in depth study of the cultures and living conditions of women in other cultures around the world. Students taking this course will learn about the lives of women. Students will study elements of lives of women from their attire, to their education level, to their working conditions and daily lives. Students will have the opportunity to compare and contrast their experiences to the experiences of women in other countries. Students will also learn the importance of self-esteem and education as they see and read about other cultures.

## Technology

### Exploration of Technology 2 (Fall semester)

**Description:** Have you ever had an idea to make something but did not know how to do it. This class introduces students to how engineers take their ideas and turn them into the cool gadgets and gizmos you use today. You will learn the Design Process and while we are learning, many times we build something too.

### Video Production (Fall Semester)

**Description:** Students will develop their skills in producing digital videos. From planning storyboards, writing scripts, editing audio, to the final editing, students will develop the skills needed to produce their own videos and burn them to DVDs.

### Exploration of Technology 3 (Spring Semester)

**Description:** What makes TVs, Smartphones, iPads, and some cars work? – Electricity! In this class we spend the first nine weeks looking at how battery style circuits works and the second nine weeks using electricity to run motors to create automated machines. What will you create?

### Digital Photography 7/8 (Spring Semester)

**Description:** This class will focus on using Photoshop and CAD to create works of Fine Art. We will be discovering how to use Canon DSLR cameras to take more artistic photos rather than newspaper style photos. In addition, sculptures created in CAD can be printed out on the 3D printer. It's like taking a pottery class without getting your hands dirty.

### Project Based Learning – Game Design 7/8 (Full Year)

**Description:** I teach the principles of how board games work, look, and move. Then, after some experimentation, student design their own board games. We also explore code writing and how to make objects work for you on the computers screen using Scratch and Jua (MinecraftEdU). When you finish the class you will leave with your very own boxed board game.

## Physical Education

### Physical Education 3 (Full Year of Semester)

**Description:** Students should be ready and willing to be physically active and responsible for their own behavior at all times. Safety and respect for all and everything is a *must*.

**Activities include (depending on semester):** flag football, pickle ball, physical fitness assessments, ultimate football, volleyball, basketball, indoor soccer, team handball, badminton, floor hockey, t-seg ball, lead-up games to softball, outdoor softball, yoga, Zumba, Eclipse Ball, Hantis, Kan Jam, and Fitness Fridays.

## Foreign Language

### Spanish 1A (Full Year)

**For Students who have successfully completed *Intro to Spanish***

**Description:** This class is designed for students with prior knowledge of the target language.

**Students will:**

- Review the basics.
- Learn conjugation of verbs and other grammar basics.
- Have quizzes and tests on a regular basis.
- Speak Spanish by giving brief presentations.
- Learn cultural events throughout the school year.

### Spanish 1B (Full Year)

**For Students who have successful completed *Intro to Spanish and Spanish 1a***

**Description:** This class is designed for students with two years of Spanish. **Students will** review grammar basics and further their knowledge on verb conjugation and application in other verb tenses. They will speak Spanish by giving brief presentation throughout the year. Students will study some cultural and historical events from Latin American countries including a research project.

### French 1A (Full Year)

**Description:** This class is a year-long class. It is designed to aid students in learning and practicing beginning French in an interesting and challenging way. This course will help students develop general skills in speaking, reading and writing in the target language as well. It also serves as a means for general understanding of the culture, the arts, and the people in a global society.

### **French 1B (Full Year)**

#### **For Students who have successfully completed *French 1a***

**Description:** This class is an advanced level class. It is designed for students with a higher level knowledge of French. This course will help students develop general skills in speaking, reading and writing French at a faster pace. Students who have completed this class should be able to advance to French II at the High School level with instructor approval.

### **Teacher Approval Required Classes (Full Year)**

**\*Students may pick these classes, but the teacher will make the final selection**

#### **Spanish for Native Speakers/ Advanced Spanish (Mrs. Sobrino)**

This class is designed for the Hispanic population whose primary language is Spanish. The students will develop insight to correct grammar and pronunciation. They will practice writing through diction and quick writes. They will also improve their reading skills through a series of reading articles in Spanish. They will study some cultural and historical events from Latin American countries including a research project, and higher level grammar.

#### **Yearbook 7/8 (Mr. Maneth)**

**Description:** I will be training you in the field of Photojournalism which means you will not just learn to take great photos, but to tell stories with the photos. You will be learning a new way of writing about how those stories can be used in newspapers and other published works. Your work may end up in the yearbook, on Instagram, or on YouTube.

#### **Honors Science: LEGO Robotics 7/8 (Ms. Merlau)**

**Description:** This STEM class gives students in 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade the opportunity to create, build and challenge their brain power through the use of Mindstorm Lego Robots. Students also get to compete against several schools across Kansas in the spring with the Lego Robotics Competition in Hays, Ks. Awesome learning experience...Come build and grow with us!!

#### **Proctor: Teacher**

Students will perform work as described in a job description filed by the supervising teacher. The duties, of an educational nature, should justify the work for one period per day. Students must be in good academic standing and have good behavior.

**\*\*Note: to be considered for a proctor position, students must sign up with Mrs. Guerra. A list of interested candidates will be given to the staff for selection**

#### **Proctor: Office**

Students will perform work as described in a job description filed by the supervising teacher. The duties, of an educational nature, should justify the work for one period per day. Students must be in good academic standing and have good behavior.

**\*\*Note: to be considered for a proctor position, students must sign up with Mrs. Guerra. A list of interested candidates will be given to the staff for selection**

