

Exploratory Options for 8th Graders

— Physical Health & Education —

8th Grade IB Health and Physical Education (7th & 8th Combined)-- Semester

This **general** PE course is designed for those that would like to participate in a variety of sports and activities and follows the traditional physical education model. Students will gain knowledge and experience and will have the opportunity to develop skills in more than one of the following sports or activities: team sports, individual/dual sports, recreational sports, and fitness/conditioning activities. Students will increase their health knowledge as well as their physical skills and strategies for a variety of activities.

Team Sports (6th-8th Combined) --Semester

Prerequisite: Proof of participation in an official school or club sports team.

This course provides students the knowledge, experience, and opportunity to develop skills in more than one team sport such as volleyball, basketball, soccer, and so on. Not only will students learn about common team sports, they will also be going through a series of conditioning activities that help develop muscular strength, flexibility, and cardiovascular fitness. While taking this course, students will be expected to dress in athletic clothes every day for class.

Dance and Conditioning- (6th-8th combined) --Semester

Dance and conditioning give students the opportunity at different levels of exposure and abilities to experience and develop skills in different types of dance (ballet, hip-hop, musical theater, etc) as well as work on fundamentals of physical fitness, aerobics, muscular development, flexibility, and stability/balance.

— Arts —

IB Visual Art II --Semester

Prerequisite: IB Visual Art I

Introduction to Principles of Design & the MYP Arts Cycle

The IB Visual Arts course is designed to provide students with the foundation of artistic literacy through the principles of design. Students will have an opportunity to create artwork and use critical thinking skills as they develop their understanding of the arts in visual culture.

Art Advanced (Studio) --Semester

Prerequisite: IB Visual Art II or Teacher Recommendation

This course allows students to explore artistic behaviors like planning, problem-solving, and generating ideas as they explore their unique voices as an artist. Students will learn foundational skills in mediums such as paint, print, and 3D mediums.

Ceramics --Semester

This course provides an introductory exposure to the history of ceramics and a beginning-level experience in the use of clay as a fine art medium. Hands-on forming techniques, surface development, glazing, and kiln firing practices will be introduced.

Art Studio Aide --Semester

Prerequisite: IB Visual Art II and Teacher Recommendation

Semester-long studio aid position to assist 5th and 6th-grade students in the art room, curate art shows, and help prep for art assistants.

Music --Semester Long

The IB Music course is designed to provide students with the basis for musical innovation and creative thinking. Students will be given the opportunity to explore sound, music, instruments, theory, and performance within different cultural perspectives and genres such as rhythm, blues, rock, rap, and electronic (EDM). Students will explore sound as a means of expressing imaginative ideas while learning to reflect deeply on their identity as they create and perform music.

— Design —

Into to Engineering --Semester

Focuses on the engineering design process for iterative manufacturing of physical and systematic solutions. An emphasis is made on creating and prototyping physical objects. Project-based learning will be coupled with the tools and materials of a maker space.

Prerequisite: Design

— Language Acquisition —

Spanish --Year-long

This course is a year-long class designed to develop students' proficiency and fluency in the Spanish language. We will focus on the four language skills which are: listening, reading, writing, and speaking. The goal is to use Spanish as the primary source of communication in class (However, some English is used- mainly for clarification purposes). The thematic units are developed in a meaningful way to provide context for students to use inside and outside of the classroom.

Spanish Fluency --Year-long

This course is a year-long class designed to strengthen already acquired students' proficiency and fluency in the Spanish language. We focus on the four language skills which are: listening, reading, writing, and speaking. Spanish is the primary source of written and verbal communication in class. We use novels as the vehicle to explore the culture and engage in discussions that help develop vocabulary and grammar.

World Languages & Cultures II --Year-long

Students will do an in-depth study of one or more languages starting with Latin or classical Greek as a foundation for our own language and culture in the United States. Next, Germanic, Slovak, and Romantic languages will be explored.