

Fort Herriman Middle School

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Fort Herriman Middle School

8th Grade Course Descriptions

Visual Arts

Art Foundations 1

Art Foundations 1 provides an overview of visual arts while studying a broad variety of art tools and materials. With an emphasis on studio production, this course is designed to develop higher-level thinking, art related technology skills, art criticism, art history, and aesthetics.

Ceramics 1

Ceramics develops basic skills in the creation of 3-D forms and pottery from clay. Techniques in hand building, wheel throwing, basic glazing, and firing are taught. With an emphasis on studio production, this course is designed to develop higher-level thinking and art-related technology skills. Some art criticism, art history, and aesthetics may be included.

Ceramics 2

Prerequisite: Ceramics 1

This is an intermediate course that builds upon the concepts and skills learned in Ceramics 1. Students will consistently produce quality pieces of ceramics.

Drawing 1

Drawing focuses on black and white or monochromatic rendering from life, pictures, masterworks, and imagination. This course is designed to develop higher-level thinking and art-related technology skills with an emphasis on studio production. Some experiences in art criticism, art history, and aesthetics may be included.

Drawing 2

Prerequisite: Drawing 1

This is an intermediate course in drawing that builds on the skills and concepts taught in Drawing 1. The use of value is emphasized. Atmospheric perspective and accurate shading are studied along with composition.

Theatre Production

This course teaches scenery construction, scenery painting, and all other aspects of production for school musicals and plays.

Career and Technical Education

Python 1

A quality computer science curriculum not only engages students in interesting, collaborative learning activities using sound pedagogical strategies, but it also ensures that students are learning concepts vital to the deep and broad field for computer science. Python 1 has been designed to achieve this goal by aligning with the CSTA K-12 Computer Science Standards. This course is primarily an introductory programming course using Python 1. Units are grounded in an array of standards from the strands of computational thinking, collaboration, computing practice and programming, computer and communications devices, and community, global, and ethical impacts.

Exploring Business and Marketing

Students will be exposed to the fundamental concepts of business and marketing. Skills include basic business concepts, organizational communication, human resources management, entrepreneurship, accounting, finance, and leadership.

Exploring Technology

Exploring Technology is an action-based course that introduces students to the technological systems of two or more of the following areas: energy-power technologies, information and communications technologies, transportation technologies, manufacturing technologies, and construction technologies. The course is designed around exploration in cooperative and individualized activities rather than project and skill development

FACS Exploration

FACS Exploration A

This Family and Consumer Science course provides students with essential life skills. The course allows students to develop skills in two or more of the following areas: interior design, clothing and textile construction, fashion design and merchandising, consumerism, entrepreneurship, and career and job-related tasks. (Local schools can determine the areas of emphasis from the above curricula where multiple sections may be offered).

FACS Exploration B

This Family and Consumer Science course provides students with essential life skills. The course allows students to develop skills in two or more of the following areas: childcare, family relationships, food and nutrition, personal responsibility, and career and job-related tasks. (Local schools can determine the areas of emphasis from the above curricula where multiple sections may be offered).

Computer Science Investigations

Computer Science Investigations introduces students to the breadth of the field of computer science through an exploration of engaging and accessible topics. Rather than focusing the entire course on learning particular software tools or programming languages, the course is designed to focus on the conceptual ideas of computing and help students understand why certain tools or languages might be utilized to solve particular problems. The goal of Computer Science Investigations is to develop in students the computational thinking practices.

Foreign Language

French 1

This course is designed to teach elementary skills in listening, speaking, reading, and spelling. The curriculum covered in this course will give students the skills to communicate in culturally-appropriate ways in the target language. By the end of this course, student skill level should be at novice-mid level according to the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language (ACTFL) standards. Students will develop an appreciation for the culture of the countries where the language is spoken.

Spanish 1

This course is designed to teach elementary skills in listening, speaking, reading, and spelling. The curriculum covered in this course will give students the skills to communicate in culturally-appropriate ways in the target language. By the end of this course, student skill level should be at novice-mid level

according to the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language (ACTFL) standards. Students will develop an appreciation for the culture of the countries where the language is spoken.

Spanish DLI 4 H

This course is designed to teach listening, speaking, reading, and spelling. The curriculum covered in this course will give students the skills to communicate in culturally-appropriate ways in the target language. By the end of this course, student skill level should be at intermediate-mid level according to the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language (ACTFL) standards.

Spanish DLI Culture and Media

This course is specifically designed for students who have completed an elementary school Dual Language Immersion program. It is designed to build skills in cultural-linguistic competencies necessary for successful communication with native speakers. Students utilize media and authentic texts to learn about the diverse cultural products, practices and perspectives of countries. This course begins preparation for the Advanced Placement Spanish exam. Can be taken as a year-long or semester class. There are 4 sections available, each taught within 2 years that do not repeat. Students who opt out of a semester will be unable to take that section.

German 1

This course is designed to teach elementary skills in listening, speaking, reading, and spelling. The curriculum covered in this course will give students the skills to communicate in culturally-appropriate ways in the target language. By the end of this course, student skill level should be at novice-mid level according to the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language (ACTFL) standards. Students will develop an appreciation for the culture of the countries where the language is spoken.

World Language Exploration

This course is designed to provide students with a rotating introduction to languages offered at their school (French and German). Focusing on listening and speaking skills, students will develop world language study strategies and acquire a variety of vocabulary sets. The course will expand student knowledge of other languages and cultures. It will also aid them in making more informed decisions about their future language study. Reading qualifier required to take this class.

Healthy Lifestyles

Health

This course develops the skills needed to improve the quality of life by helping students to cope with and solve problems, develop positive self-image, and make healthy decisions. The students will explore positive lifestyles, disease prevention, emergency procedures, media literacy, and alcohol and drug abuse prevention.

Fitness 8

This is a physical education course allowing students to continue participating in a variety of instructional physical activities. Experiences increase complexity in content, concept and skill development for a broad spectrum of activities. Students continue to practice skills in modified games, but increasingly participate in activities that are regulation games with more complex playing environments. This class incorporates more in-depth instruction training principles that can enhance health-related fitness as students progress in achieving personal fitness goals.

Sports Conditioning

This course is designed to teach sports which require group participation and cooperation. Will introduce students to mental fitness in healthy lifestyles and athletics. Students will explore sports and athletic preparation, competition, and training.

Mindfulness Yoga

This class focuses on structural alignment, increase of strength and flexibility. It will deepen student's awareness of breath and the role it has in generating energy and stamina in one's mind and body. The course will also incorporate techniques for stress relief, and enhance one's physical performance by teaching students how to connect breath, organ systems, physiology and anatomy all together.

Language Arts

Language Arts 8

This course, based on the 8th Grade Utah English Language Arts (ELA) Core Standards, is designed for grade-level instruction reading comprehension, writing, methods of inquiry, and the processes, skills, and strategies for effective communication.

Creative Writing

This course, based on Utah English Language Arts (ELA) Core Writing Standards, is designed to introduce students to imaginative composition with the writing of personal experiences, character sketches, short fiction, and poetry. Students will have the opportunity to prepare manuscripts for publication, awards, and scholarships.

Math

8th Grade Mathematics

Prerequisite: 7th Grade Mathematics

In 8th Grade Mathematics students will focus on formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; grasping the concepts of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; and analyzing two- and three dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean theorem.

Performing Arts

Mixed Choir

This is a vocal music course that is open to all students. It covers three and four-part music and a review of singing fundamentals. Approval of the instructor may be required. Rehearsals and performances outside of class time are part of the course requirements and constitute a portion of the grade.

Choir 3 Concert - Mixed

This course is designed to help students gain more experience and understanding of choral music, as well as to increase their techniques of singing by learning and performing more challenging choral literature. Rehearsals and performances outside of class time are part of the course requirement and constitute a portion of the grade.

Ladies Choir

This course is designed to help students with treble voices gain more experience and understanding of choral music, as well as to increase their techniques of singing by learning and performing more challenging choral literature. Rehearsals and performances outside of class time are part of the course requirement and constitute a portion of the grade.

Guitar 1

This course provides opportunities for students to develop their musical potential and aesthetic understanding through learning to play a guitar. Emphasis will be placed on: playing position, tone production, fundamental technique, simultaneous playing and singing, reading music, and composing songs/lyrics. Knowledge and skills will include experiences in singing, playing, listening, and connecting to cultures. An instrument is required for class time, as well as for practicing outside of class.

Guitar 2

Prerequisite: Guitar 1 or equivalent

This course is designed to provide guitar students with more advanced strums, bar chords, and melodic playing. Instrument required.

Beginning Theatre

This is an introductory course in theatre with an emphasis on performance and playwriting. No previous experience is necessary. The course will include, but not be limited to, improvisation, monologues, characterization, movement, playwriting, and work with voice projection and diction. Other skills learned and developed include critical thinking, rehearsal skills, plot structure, reading, writing, and cooperative group work.

Intermediate Theatre

Prerequisite: Beginning Theatre or Instructor approval

This is an intermediate course in theatre with an emphasis on performance and playwriting. The course will include, but not be limited to, playwriting, characterization, monologues, scenes from plays, movement, voice projection and diction, and improvisation. Other skills learned and developed include critical thinking, rehearsal skills, plot structure, reading writing, and cooperative group work.

Dance 1

This course offers basic dance techniques, fitness fundamentals, movement qualities, and rhythm with an emphasis on creativity, sequencing, and problem solving.

Dance 2

Prerequisite: Dance 1 or Instructor approval

A course designed to develop dance techniques, flexibility, and coordination, with an emphasis on creativity and artistic composition. There will be performances outside of class time that are part of the course requirements, and they will constitute a portion of the grade.

Dance Company

Prerequisite: Audition/Interview

This course emphasizes the development of a performing group. Members develop skills in all forms of dance and choreography. Students perform for the school and community. Performances, as well

as rehearsals outside of the regular school day are required and constitute a portion of the course grade.

Pre-Dance Company

Prerequisite: Audition/Interview

This course emphasizes the development of a performing group. Members develop skills in all forms of dance and choreography. Students perform for the school and community. Performances, as well as rehearsals outside of the regular school day are required and constitute a portion of the course grade.

Beginning Orchestra 1

This class is for students who would like to learn to play a violin, viola, cello, or string bass. No experience necessary. Practice outside of class time and performances are part of this course. Instruments are required. If available, a viola, a cello, or a string bass may be rented from the school for a nominal fee.

Orchestra 2

Prerequisite: Instructor approval

This is an intermediate-level orchestra class focusing on intermediate-level literature for orchestra. Rehearsals and performances outside of class time are part of the course requirements and will constitute a portion of the grade. Practice outside of class time with the instrument is required. If available, a viola, a cello, or a string bass may be rented from the school for a nominal fee.

Orchestra 3

Prerequisite: Instructor approval (Audition and/or interview possible)

This is an orchestra class focusing on advanced-level literature for orchestra. Rehearsals and performances outside of class time are part of the course requirement and will constitute a portion of the grade. Practice outside of class time with instrument is required.

Beginning Band 1

Band 1 - Woodwinds

This is a beginning band class offered for students who wish to learn to play the flute, oboe, clarinet or saxophone. Practice outside of class time and performances are part of this course. An instrument is required. If available, an oboe or tenor saxophone may be rented at the school for a nominal fee.

Band 1 - Brass

This is a beginning band class offered for students who wish to learn to play the cornet, trumpet, French horn, baritone horn, euphonium, trombone, or tuba. Practice outside of class time and performances are part of this course. An instrument is required. If available, a French horn, baritone horn, euphonium, or tuba may be rented at the school for a nominal fee.

Band 1 - Percussion

This is a beginning band class offered for students who wish to learn to play the drums, mallet keyboard instruments, and other percussion-related instruments. Practice outside of class time and performances are part of this course. Drum sticks are required. A drum kit or mallets may also be required as per teacher request. Must have experience in percussion or piano.

Band 2 - Concert

Prerequisite: Audition/Interview

This is an intermediate level band course that encourages increased technical and expressive musical proficiency through performance and study of music. Rehearsals and performances outside of class time are part of the course requirement and constitute a portion of the grade. Practice outside of class time with an instrument is required. If available, an oboe, bass clarinet, bassoon, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, French horn, baritone horn, euphonium, or tuba may be rented at the school for a nominal fee.

Band 3 - Symphonic

Prerequisite: Audition/Interview

This is an advanced course which performs varied, advanced-level music. Attendance is required at all rehearsals and performances. Rehearsals and performances outside of class are part of the course requirement and constitute a portion of the grade. Practice outside of class time with an instrument is required. If available, an oboe, bass clarinet, bassoon, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, French horn, baritone horn, euphonium, or tuba may be rented at the school for a nominal fee.

Band 3 - Jazz

Prerequisite: Audition

Offered during a TA period, this is a course open to students whose interests are in performing jazz, rock, and related musical literature. Students must also have a band class in their school schedule. The group is designed to provide fundamental knowledge of this music through performance. Rehearsals and performances outside of class time are part of the course requirement and constitute a portion of the grade. Practice outside of class time with an instrument is required. If available, a tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, or electric bass guitar may be rented at the school for a nominal fee.

Science

Integrated Science 8

Eighth Grade Integrated Science focuses on the theme of "change." Physical, earth, and life science contents are integrated in a core curriculum. The standards to be taught relate to observations of chemical and physical change, changes in biological energy, forces, energy, and motion, constructing machines, and changes in the Earth's crust and climate. The ALPS section is taught with an added emphasis on depth, complexity, creativity, and critical thinking.

Social Studies

U.S. History 1

United States History 1 includes events and issues in United States history from the Age of Exploration through Reconstruction, emphasizing the 18th and 19th centuries. Topics include, but are not limited to, American Indian life, European exploration and colonization, the Revolutionary War, constitutional issues, nation building, expansion, the Civil War, and Reconstruction. The standards can be taught either chronologically or thematically, but are organized into chronological periods. Periodization is an organizational tool historians use to make connections and draw distinctions. Periods are flexible ways of making meaning, and may overlap chronologically. Students will be expected to demonstrate their understanding of each period's key historic, geographic, economic, and civic concepts by applying those concepts to complete cognitively rigorous tasks. Whenever possible, students will be expected to make connections between historically significant events and current

issues, helping to deepen their understanding of the context and complexity of civic life and preparing them for civic engagement.

***Other**

Reading 8

Prerequisite: Instructor approval

This course, based on the 8th Grade Utah English Language Arts (ELA) Core Standards, is designed for students requiring basic instruction with targeted intervention in reading comprehension, vocabulary, and reading skills, to assist striving readers with literary, informational, and functional texts. If this course is required, it will be one of the elective units.

Student Aide

Prerequisite: At least a 3.0 GPA, No N or U citizenship, and Instructor approval

This is a semester course that offers students a unique experience working with teachers or in an office. This position provides an opportunity to observe and model adults at work. It provides a wide range of learning opportunities in areas such as life skills, human development, and career exploration. Students have the opportunity to practice reliable citizenship and social skills as they interact with peers, school staff, and the general public.

Teacher Advisory (TA) 8th Grade

This course provides an opportunity for students to establish a positive relationship with an adult role model in the school, to engage in silent sustained reading, to participate in character education, and to focus on study skills. Teachers provide students with academic support in a mentorship environment. Participation in this class will help to enhance the core curriculum and to create a more positive environment in the school. Students have the opportunity to earn .25 credits per semester based on participation in all Teacher Advisory activities.

Yearbook Publication

Students will be able to produce a yearbook after they have mastered terms and procedures involved with planning and producing such a publication. This is a yearlong specialized TA.