

WEST SYLVAN MIDDLE SCHOOL

ELECTIVE PROGRAM

Some elective classes have prerequisites, which are listed in the course descriptions. In some situations, eighth graders will be given preference over seventh graders.

6th Grade Courses

P.E.(1/2 year class) Grades 6

In 6th grade P.E. students will be developing movement skills through a variety of fun activities and sports and games. We welcome all ability levels in P.E. because you will be developing habits to become a lifelong active individual while safely learning a participating in activities such as: flag football, soccer, basketball, dodgeball, floor hockey, team hand-ball, team kick-ball, mat-ball, whiffle-ball, and ultimate Frisbee.

Technology(1/2 year class) Grades 6

Technology focuses on developing student's computer skills along with exploring the use of the computer as a creative tool. Sample projects include keyboarding, PowerPoint presentations, word processing, and excel charts, to creating computer animation, music, art, and coding.

Beginning Art (1/2 year class) Grades 6

Students will explore art in the studio through a variety of projects that teach the elements of art and design. Media may include ink, graphite, charcoal, pastel, watercolor, acrylics, metals, Papier-Mache, and clay. Within the context of our studio work, students will analyze and interpret works of art and learn to critique their own work and the work of peers. Students will incorporate techniques and ideas based on the work of seminal artists and movements, while developing their own originality and creativity. Studio projects may also incorporate culture studies of historical traditions of both the ancient and modern world, such as ancient Mesopotamia and China, Europe in the Middle Age, and Colonial America(s).
No prerequisite required. \$25.00 materials fee

Guitar (1/2 year class) Grades 6

Guitar Class is for any student wanting to learn to play the guitar or to increase current guitar playing skills. Individual assignments will be played for the teacher in a one-on-one situation – nobody is required to play for the whole class. The pace of individual instruction varies, as students learn at different rates of speed., but the minimum expectation is for each student to complete one assignment per week. Grading is as follows: 50% -- playing assignments; 30% – appropriate classroom procedures; 20% -- end of quarter PowerPoint presentation on a research topic discussed in class. Students are encouraged to bring their own acoustic guitar – NO electric guitars will be permitted. School instruments are available for those without their own personal instruments.

Arabic Ethnic Studies(1/2 year class) Grade 6

Students will participate in number of different activities that support an understanding of Arabic culture. They will also gain an understanding of customs and traditions throughout the Arab world and be able to compare and contrast Arab and Islamic cultures with their own cultures. Activities may include art, reading, and writing, while beginning to learn some of the Arabic Language. This is not officially a World Language course, but rather an introduction into diversity of the Arabic world.

Leadership (1/2 year class) Grade 6

In Leadership Class you will be planning and providing service both to the school and community. You will plan, organize and carry out activities and projects that encourage school spirit and provide opportunities to make our school a positive and encouraging place to be. Students will identify, develop and refine personal characteristic needed to be an effective leader.. The students will be involved in administering school wide programs and assisting in important events on our campus.

Cadet Band (Full Year Commitment). Grade 6

Cadet Band is designed for students with little or no previous band experience.

This class is designed to:

- develop individual & group skills in playing band instruments

- explore band music from a variety of musical styles & eras
- develop each student's overall musicianship.

Cadet Band members may choose from the following instruments: Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Trumpet/Cornet, Trombone, Baritone, and Percussion. There are a few instruments available for rent from the school district, but as they are quite well used, Cadet Band members are strongly encouraged to provide their own instruments. Students do not need to have an instrument at the start of the school year as we will be spending the first couple of class sessions trying out and selecting instruments.

As a performance class, the Cadet Band can expect to be involved in 2–3 evening performances throughout the year along with several performance oriented field trips.

Concert Band (Full Year Commitment), Grade 6

Concert Band is the group for all 6th grade band members regardless of experience.

This class is designed to:

- develop individual & group skills in playing band instruments
- explore band music from a variety of musical styles & eras
- develop each student's overall musicianship.

As a performance class, Concert Band members can expect to be involved in 2–3 evening performances throughout the year plus possible performance oriented field trips. Concert Band members will also be encouraged to participate in the PPS Middle School Solo and Small Ensemble Festival during the year.

7th Grade Courses

Spanish 1 (Full Year Commitment) Grade 7

This is the first of a two year sequence. In this beginning course students will learn the basics of listening, speaking, reading and writing Spanish. They will also learn about the countries

that use Spanish and their cultures. Activities include performing dialogues, conversations and presentations, learning songs and poems in Spanish. Music, film and speakers support cultural understanding. This is an academic elective and students will be required to put in regular study time at home. Students will complete the first year with basic conversational skills, a growing vocabulary and Spanish writing skills. Another goal of the course is that students will develop an interest in the language and culture and see the value of continuing to study Spanish as they move on in school and their lives. Students, who maintain a 'C' or higher throughout 7th and 8th grade, can receive a high school credit of foreign language and can enter Spanish 3-4, at Lincoln High School and other cooperating schools.

French 1 (Full Year Commitment) Grade 7

This is the first of a two year sequence. In this beginning course students will learn the basics of listening, speaking, reading and writing French. They will also learn about the countries that use French and their cultures. Activities include performing dialogues, conversations and presentations, learning songs and poems in French. Music, film and speakers support cultural understanding. This is an academic elective and students will be required to put in regular study time at home. Students will complete the first year with basic conversational skills, a growing vocabulary and French writing skills. Another goal of the course is that students will develop an interest in the language and culture and see the value of continuing to study French as they move on in school and their lives. Students, who maintain a 'C' or higher throughout 7th and 8th grade, can receive a high school credit of foreign language and can enter French 3-4 at Lincoln High School and other cooperating schools.

Mandarin 1 (Full Year Commitment) Grade 7

This is the first year of a two year sequence. In this beginning course students will learn the basics of listening, speaking, reading and writing Mandarin. They will also learn about China and the Chinese culture. Activities include performing dialogues, conversations and presentations, learning songs and poems in Mandarin. Music, film, and speakers support cultural understanding. This is an academic elective and students will be required to put in regular study time at home. Students will complete the first year with basic conversational skills, a growing vocabulary, and pinyin and character writing skills. Another goal of the course is that students will develop an interest in the language and culture and see the value of continuing to study Mandarin as they move on in school and their lives. Students who maintain

a 'C' or higher throughout 7th and 8th grade, can receive a high school credit of foreign language and can enter Mandarin 3-4 at Lincoln High School and other Portland Public schools.

Arabic 1 (Full Year Commitment) Grade 7

This is the first of a two year sequence. In this beginning course students will learn the basics of listening, speaking, reading and writing Arabic. They will also learn about the countries that use Arabic and their cultures. Activities include performing dialogues, conversations and presentations, learning songs and poems in Arabic. Music, film and speakers support cultural understanding. This is an academic elective and students will be required to put in regular study time at home. Students will complete the first year with basic conversational skills, a growing vocabulary and Arabic writing skills. Another goal of the course is that students will develop an interest in the language and culture and see the value of continuing to study Arabic as they move on in school and their lives. Students, who maintain a 'C' or higher throughout 7th and 8th grade, can receive a high school credit of foreign language and can enter Arabic 3-4 at Lincoln High school and other cooperating schools.

Symphonic Band (Full Year Commitment). Grade 7

Prerequisite: at least 1 year of band experience or approval by instructor. **Symphonic Band is the group for all 7th grade band members regardless of experience.**

This class is designed to:

- develop individual & group skills in playing band instruments
- explore band music from a variety of musical styles & eras
- develop each student's overall musicianship.

As a performance class, Symphonic Band members can expect to be involved in 2-3 evening performances throughout the year, and to march in the 2015 Junior Rose Parade (and perhaps 1 or 2 others) plus possible field trips. Symphonic Band members will be eligible for nomination for the Oregon All State Middle School Honor Band and the PPS Middle School Honor Band, and will be encouraged to participate in the PPS Middle School Solo and Small Ensemble Festival during the year.

7th/8th Combined Grade Level Electives

Leadership (1/2 year class) Grades 7-8

In Leadership Class you will be planning and providing service both to the school and community. You will plan, organize and carry out activities and projects that encourage school spirit and provide opportunities to make our school a positive and encouraging place to be. Students will identify, develop and refine personal characteristics needed to be an effective leader. The students will be involved in administering school wide programs and assisting in important events on our campus.

Study Hall (1/2 year class) Grades 7-8

Students in Study Hall will have the opportunity to catch up on their homework in a structured environment and with the potential support of peers or a Study Hall teacher. Students in Study Hall should expect conversations that support individual monitoring of grades, organizational skills and teaching around effective learning habits, if necessary and appropriate. *This class is a Pass/No Pass course.*

Beginning Art Grades (Half-year)

Open to All Grades

Students will explore art in the studio through a variety of projects that teach the elements of art and design. Media may include ink, graphite, charcoal, pastel, watercolor, acrylics, metals, Papier-Mache, and clay. Within the context of our studio work, students will analyze and interpret works of art and learn to critique their own work and the work of peers. Students will incorporate techniques and ideas based on the work of seminal artists and movements, while developing their own originality and creativity. Studio projects may also incorporate culture studies of historical traditions of both the ancient and modern world, such as ancient Mesopotamia and China, Europe in the Middle Ages, and Colonial America(s). **No prerequisite required.** \$25.00 materials fee

Intermediate Art (1/2 year class) Grades 7-8

Explore fundamental techniques in drawing, painting, collage, printmaking, and sculpture. Media may include graphite, charcoal, pen & ink, pastel, watercolor, acrylic, metals, papier Mache, fabric, and clay. Tutorials, individualized technical assistance, and flexible project-based assignments will provide structure and guidance for students as they explore media and ideas. Studies of famous and lesser known artists will inform and inspire our work. Independently but with teacher guidance, students will initiate a *capstone* project that develops a thematic idea using an independently chosen media or mixed media.

No prerequisite required. \$25.00 materials fee

Advanced Art Grades 7-8 (Half-year OR Full year)

(Art II-intermediate prerequisite required)

This advanced art course is for students interested in a rigorous and focused study in art, who wish to communicate ideas and opinions through a variety of 2D and 3D media. We will concentrate on the development of thematic ideas through studies in composition, form, and technique. Students will explore media through a variety of sustained projects, working within a flexible framework provided by the instructor, with opportunities to personalize and investigate areas of interest. Students will also independently choose one media in which to specialize, and develop an independent body of work (a portfolio of three projects) that demonstrates quality, concentration and breadth.

\$35.00 materials fee.

Dance I (1/2 year class) Grade 7-8

This course offers students an opportunity to learn basic tap and jazz as well as performance skills. Students of all levels are *required* to participate in the semester's final recital. They will be asked to purchase tap and jazz shoes and appropriate attire for dance class. We do have some tap and jazz shoes available for students to rent at a small cost. Students may use this course to fulfill their PE requirement and may be repeated in future semesters.

Ripped and Fit (1/2 year class) Grades 7-8

You will be introduced to a variety of fitness and conditioning styles: yoga, Pilates, weight training, dance, aerobics, kickboxing and circuit training. You will learn in a comfortable, fun and challenging atmosphere. This class will encourage development of self-discipline, physical flexibility and endurance as well as self-confidence. Students may use this course to fulfill their P.E. requirement and may be repeated in future semesters.

Physical Education (1/2 year class) Grade 7-8

This course offers an introduction to a range of individual, dual, and team activities such as flag football, basketball, golf, hockey, pickle ball, and volleyball. Many of these activities teach lifetime skills and team cooperation. NOTE: P.E. is highly recommended for at least one semester, although you may choose to take a second semester.

Media Arts (1/2 year class) Grades 7-8

Students write, produce, direct, act in and edit their own short movies. The best films of the year might make their way into one or more film festival competitions around the country.

Technology Education – Tech. Ed. (1/2 year class) Grades 7-8

This class blends the best aspects of industrial arts, hands-on science based project, and computer applications. Students explore projects such as carving skateboards, building birdhouses, making model bridges, and designing buildings on the computer.

Speech and Communication (1/2 year class) Grades 7-8

This comprehensive course will focus on documentary production, magazine publishing, reporting, and social media usage. In addition, this class will have an overall emphasis on journalistic integrity, grammar and the revision process. Students will be able to see their work in print in the biannual West Sylvan Magazine.

8th Grade Courses

Yearbook (1/2 year class) Grade 8

This class lets you use your creative ability to create and design the yearbook. Students will take pictures and learn how to use Photo – shop to edit and arrange them. They will learn about page layout and cover design. Finally, the work will be published as the West Sylvan Yearbook 2014. This class is only offered first semester.

Spanish 2 (Full year commitment) Grade 8

Prerequisite. Spanish 1 and teacher approval. This is the second year of a two year sequence. Students coming from other schools should have been studying Spanish in a classroom for at least a year. This year builds on the vocabulary and grammar skills that the students acquired in 7th grade. Students should complete the 8th grade year with a much broader vocabulary base, a better command of the present tense and a basic understanding of the simple past. Students who maintain a 'C' or higher throughout 7th and 8th grade, can receive a high school credit of foreign language and can enter Spanish 3-4 at Lincoln High School and other cooperating schools.

French 2 (Full year commitment) Grade 8

Prerequisite. French 1 and teacher approval. This is the second year of a two year sequence. Students coming from other schools should have been studying French in a classroom for at least a year. This year builds on the vocabulary and grammar skills that the students acquired in 7th grade. Students should complete the 8th grade year with a much broader vocabulary base, a better command of the present tense and a basic understanding of the simple past. Students who maintain a 'C' or higher throughout 7th and 8th grade, can receive a high school credit of foreign language and can enter French 3-4 at Lincoln High School and other cooperating schools.

Mandarin 2 (Full year commitment) Grade 8

Prerequisite. Mandarin 1 and teacher approval. This the second year of a two year sequence. Students coming from other schools should have been studying Mandarin in a classroom for at least a year. This year builds on the vocabulary, grammar, pinyin and character writing skills that the students acquired in 7th grade. Students should complete the 8th grade year with a much broader vocabulary base, a better command of the present tense and a basic understanding of the simple past. Students will deepen their understanding of the Chinese culture. Students who maintain a 'C' or higher throughout 7th and 8th grade, can receive a high school credit of foreign language and can enter Mandarin 3-4 at Lincoln High School and other cooperating schools.

Arabic 2 (Full Year Commitment) Grade 8

Prerequisite. Arabic 1 and teacher approval. This is a second year of a two year sequence. Students coming from other schools should have been studying Arabic in a classroom for at least a year. This year builds on the vocabulary, grammar and writing skills that the students acquired in 7th grade. Students should complete the 8th grade year with a much broader vocabulary base, a better command of the present tense and a basic understanding of the simple past. Students will deepen their understanding of the cultures who speak Arabic. Students, who maintain a ‘C’ or higher throughout 7th and 8th grade, can receive a high school credit of foreign language and can enter Arabic 3-4 at Lincoln High School and other cooperating schools.

Dance II – (Full Year Commitment) Grades 7-8

Prerequisite. Dance 1 or teacher permission. This class is a *full year* continuation of Dance I fundamentals for students committed to expanding their technical dance skills and knowledge. Performance requirements and other expectations are the same as Dance I. Students who have not taken Dance I must obtain special permission from Dance Instructors. Curriculum will be supplemented with dance history, dance criticism and other knowledge components through written assignments, projects and tests. The teacher’s signature of approval is required.

Wind Ensemble (Full Year Commitment). Grade 8

Prerequisite. at least 2 years of band experience or approval by instructor. Wind Ensemble is the group for all 8th grade band members regardless of experience.

This class is designed to:

- develop individual & group skills in playing band instruments
- explore band music from a variety of musical styles & eras
- develop each student's overall musicianship.

As a performance class, Wind Ensemble members can expect to be involved in 2-3 evening performances throughout the year, to march in the 2015 Junior Rose Parade (and perhaps 1 or 2 others), and participate in a variety of performance oriented field trips. Wind Ensemble members will have opportunities to perform with the Lincoln High School Bleacher Band at

one home football and one home basketball game, and will perform at Lincoln High School's "Future Cardinals" concert. Wind Ensemble members will be eligible for nomination for the Oregon All State Middle School Honor Band and the PPS Middle School Honor Band, and will be encouraged to participate in the PPS Middle School Solo and Small Ensemble Festival during the year.