

West Sylvan 8th Grade Elective Options

Physical Education Choices

Students are required to take one quarter of a Physical Education course and one quarter of health that is grade level specific.

Standard P.E.

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.

Ripped and Fit

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.

Dance II - (Will be offered for 3 quarters and pair with 1 quarter, 8th grade health)

Prerequisite: Dance 1 or teacher permission. This class is a 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.

Electives in 'World Language'

Students may continue their world language from 7th grade, which include the following options.

Spanish 2

Prerequisite: Spanish 1 or 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

Prerequisite: French 1 or 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

Prerequisite: Mandarin 1 or teacher approval. This is 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

Prerequisite: Arabic 1 or 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.

Electives in 'DESIGN'

Students will need to take at least one class from this category during the course of the year.

S.T.E.M. - DNA Science and Biotechnology

This course is an exploration into the fascinating world of DNA science and Biotechnology. Students will gain experience on the basic foundations of DNA and Biotech through hands-on experience and laboratory techniques. Students will be introduced to basic principles of molecular genetics, protein synthesis, recombinant DNA technology and genetic engineering. They will also gain hands-on experience in biotechnology methods such as laboratory safety, micro-pipetting, DNA extraction and restriction digestion, gel electrophoresis and PCR. This course is designed for students to tagin knowledge and practical skills by preparing for their high school studies.

Tech. Ed. (Pre-Engineering Education)

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.

Yearbook Grade Yearbook

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 2020-21. This class is only offered first semester.

Ethics

What is right? What is wrong? Is there such a thing as right and wrong? In this semester class, 8th grade students will have the opportunity to explore what it means to be ethical. Students will learn different ethical philosophies and apply these philosophies to real-world and current issues and situations. Students will ask the questions: What is right? What is wrong? How do we know? How can we, and should we, use an ethical lens to determine the answer to these questions? This is a discussion and debate-based class, so come prepared to share your thoughts as well learn how to listen to ideas that may be different from yours.

Leadership

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.

Electives in 'ART'

Students will need to take at least one class from this category during the course of the year.

Beginning Art

Students will be introduced to the studio through a variety of 2D and 3D projects that teach the elements of art and design. Media may include ink, graphite, charcoal, pastel, watercolor, acrylics, metals, Papier-Mache, ceramics, and more. 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 model artists and movements, while developing their own originality and creativity. Studio projects may also include cultural studies both modern and ancient.

Intermediate Art

Explore and solidify fundamental techniques in drawing, painting, collage, printmaking, and sculpture. 2D and 3D Media may include graphite, charcoal, pen & ink, pastel, watercolor, acrylic, metals, papier Mache, fabric, oils, ceramics, and more. Tutorials, individualized technical assistance, and flexible project-based assignments will provide structure and guidance for students as they explore media and ideas. Studies of model artists will inform and inspire our work. Independently but with teacher guidance, students will initiate a capstone project that develops a thematic and culturally resonant idea, using an independently chosen media. Students are encouraged to push beyond their comfort zone and explore new media.

Advanced Art

This advanced art course is for students interested in rigorous and in-depth studies in art, working on both, assigned projects and independent explorations. Independent work is supported but driven by the student's interest and skill set, working within a flexible framework provided by the instructor. Students are encouraged to use art to communicate ideas and opinions through a variety of 2D and 3D media. Students will concentrate on the development of thematic ideas while continually honing skills in composition and technique. Students will either complete a commission piece, working with a client, or develop an independent body of work that includes a portfolio of three projects. Either option must demonstrate quality, concentration and breadth. *Prerequisite required (Art 1, 2, or instructor approval).*

Media Arts

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.

Wind Ensemble:

Prerequisite: at least 2 years of band experience or approval by instructor.

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 Junior Rose Parade (and perhaps 1 or 2 others), and participate in a variety of performance oriented field trips. 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.