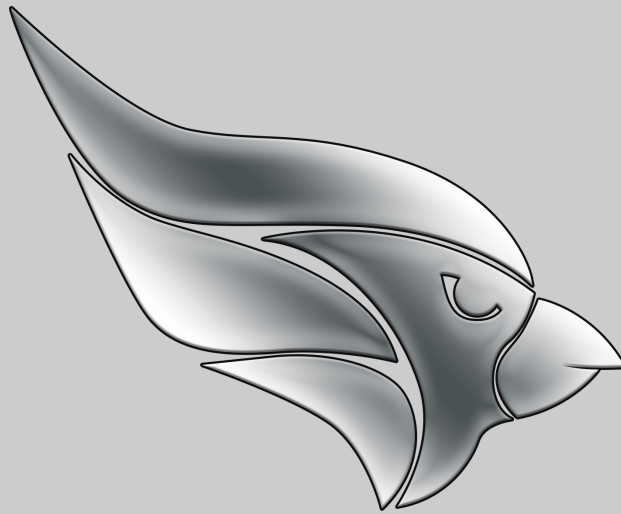


Driftwood Middle School

The Academy of Environmental Health & Wellness



Educating the Whole Child!



Magnet Course Descriptions

Driftwood Middle

An Award-Winning School!



Electives

Course Descriptions

Mental Wellness & General Well-Being

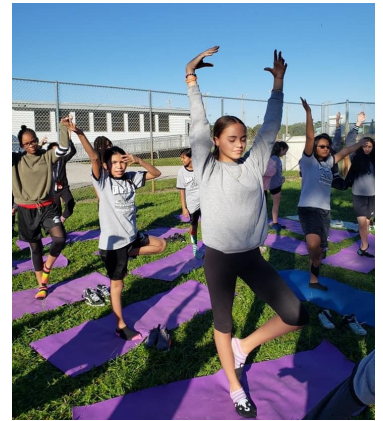
Band



The Driftwood Middle School Beginning, Advanced, Symphonic, and Jazz Bands are excited for another incredible year of music-making! Encourage your child to explore the endless benefits of music education by joining the band. Learning to play an instrument enhances academic performance, fosters creativity, and builds confidence. Through music, students embark on a cultural journey embracing diversity, tradition, and self-expression. Being part of a school band develops discipline, teamwork, and perseverance, shaping skills that last a lifetime. Music has the power to inspire, transform, and enrich your child's life.

Happiness Studies

Want to feel happier and more confident? This course dives into the science of well-being, blending psychology, philosophy, and neuroscience to help you understand what truly makes people happy. You'll learn practical strategies to manage stress, build strong relationships, and navigate challenges with confidence. Designed for students looking to better understand themselves and grow personally, this course explores happiness from multiple perspectives while focusing on real-life skills that enhance both academic and social success. Through engaging, hands-on activities inside and outside the classroom, you'll gain valuable tools to create a more positive, fulfilling, and meaningful life.



Health & Nutrition

The health curriculum is designed to deepen students's understanding of vital topics such as nutrition, disease prevention, and hygiene while cultivating essential life skills, including effective communication, time management, assertive refusal techniques, resilience against negative peer pressure, and stress management. Furthermore, all students will gain hands-on experience in measuring body temperature, monitoring blood pressure, and tracking heart rates.



Environmental Wellness

Gardening

This dynamic course explores the emotional and physical benefits of designing, cultivating, and maintaining a thriving garden while fostering a deeper connection to nature. Students will engage in every stage of the gardening process, from planning and planting to nurturing and harvesting fresh food. Additionally, this class seamlessly integrates science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) through hands-on activities, enhancing problem-solving skills and scientific inquiry in a real-world context.



Please follow our garden class on Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/dmsgardening>

Culinary Arts

Discover the art and science of cooking in our hands-on **farm-to-table** Culinary course! This introductory class provides a strong foundation in culinary skills, covering everything from food safety and sanitation to the proper use of kitchen tools and equipment. Students will learn basic food preparation techniques, menu planning, and recipe interpretation, while also exploring career opportunities in the culinary field. Beyond cooking, this course helps develop essential leadership, communication, and employability skills.



Physical Wellness

Exercise Science

Students will develop the knowledge and skills necessary to build healthy habits that promote lifelong fitness and nutrition. They will gain an in-depth understanding of the major muscle groups in the body and the exercises that effectively strengthen them. Additionally, students will learn how to set and achieve realistic fitness and nutrition goals, empowering them to make informed, health-conscious decisions throughout the year and beyond.



Team Sports

This course is designed to enhance students' physical skills across various forms of movement while fostering a strong understanding of team sports concepts, including offensive and defensive strategies and tactics. Additionally, students will develop essential teamwork and social skills within group settings. A key focus of the course is the seamless integration of fitness principles, ensuring students build a foundation for lifelong physical well-being and success in sports.

Cooperative Games

This course is designed to equip students with the skills, knowledge, and motivation needed to engage in non-traditional forms of physical activity, promoting lifelong health and well-being. Emphasizing the integration of fitness principles, the curriculum fosters an appreciation for diverse movement experiences while encouraging students to develop and maintain a healthy, active lifestyle. Through hands-on participation and personalized goal-setting, students gain the confidence and ability to incorporate fitness into their daily lives.

Intellectual Wellness

Spanish I & II

Spanish I & Spanish II are year-long, high school credit courses available to 7th and 8th graders. These courses focus on the four essential areas of language learning: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Learning a new language offers lifelong benefits, including improved cognitive abilities, problem-solving skills, and memory. Mastering Spanish allows students to connect with diverse communities and gain a deeper appreciation for different cultures, broadening their worldview and communication skills.



Latinos in Action

This program empowers 7th and 8th-grade students by preparing them for college and future careers through leadership, mentorship, and community engagement. Throughout the year, participants serve as role models by tutoring elementary school students, fostering academic growth and confidence. When not tutoring, they develop essential skills for college readiness, including leadership training and service learning. Additionally, students have the opportunity to attend the annual LiA Youth Leadership Conference, hosted by a local university, further enriching their educational experience.

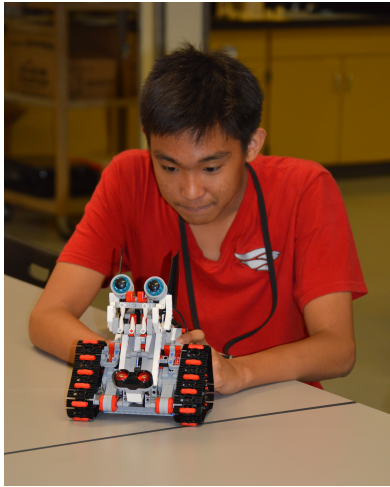
TV-Production

This introductory course immerses students in the fundamentals of live television broadcasting and video production. Each day, students work collaboratively to create a 5–10-minute news program, delivering daily announcements to Driftwood students and staff through a campus-wide broadcast. Throughout the course, students gain hands-on experience in various production roles, developing essential skills that provide a strong foundation for advanced television and video production courses at the high school level.



Advanced IT

This year-long, high school credit course offers a comprehensive introduction to business and information systems, current industry trends, and essential computer skills for both academic and professional environments. Students will develop proficiency in databases, internet navigation, spreadsheets, presentation software, personal information management, email communication, and word processing. Additionally, they will explore HTML, webpage design, and the seamless integration of these applications using industry-standard software, preparing them for success in the digital world.



S.T.E.A.M (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics).

This hands-on program introduces students to the design process through an engaging, project-based approach to engineering. Students explore Robotics using LEGO Mindstorms Robotic Kits, designing, building, and programming their own robots. Working in teams, they develop problem-solving, coding, and teamwork skills while documenting their progress, gaining valuable experience in technology and innovation.

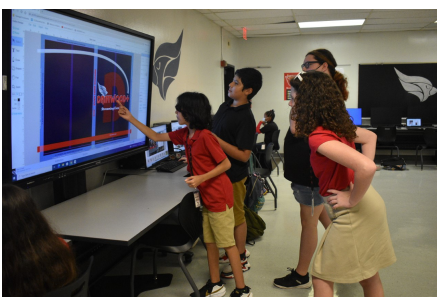
Debate

Speech and Debate provides an opportunity for students to develop critical thinking, public speaking, and leadership skills that will benefit them for a lifetime. Through research, structured argumentation, and engaging discussions, students learn to express their ideas clearly, think on their feet, and build confidence in their communication abilities. These skills not only enhance academic success but also prepare students to be strong high school and college candidates, effective professionals, and informed citizens.



Yearbook

This year-long course offers students hands-on experience in print media publishing, equipping them with valuable skills in photography, business, computer applications, communication, and design. Through a dynamic blend of creativity and technical expertise, students capture moments, craft compelling narratives, and design visually engaging layouts. The course's culminating project is the annual Driftwood Middle School Yearbook, where students take on the responsibility of photographing events, writing content, and meticulously designing each page, creating a lasting keepsake for the school community.



We are a...

Top Magnet School of Excellence!

We are proud to announce that **Driftwood Middle School** has been recognized as a **Top National Magnet School of Excellence**, a prestigious award given to top-performing magnet schools across the country. This recognition highlights our commitment to academic excellence, innovative learning, and strong community involvement.

At Driftwood, we follow the five pillars of magnet education:

Diversity – Creating an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.

Innovative Curriculum & Professional Development – Ensuring students receive cutting-edge education from highly trained teachers.

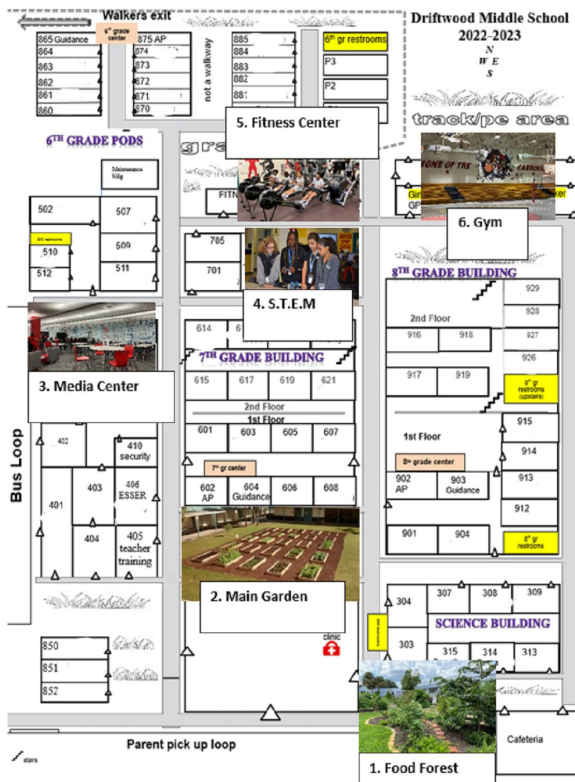
Academic Excellence – Setting high standards and supporting student success.

High-Quality Instructional Systems – Using effective teaching methods that engage and inspire.

Family & Community Partnerships – Building strong relationships between school, families, and the community.



These guiding principles empower students with the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed for a successful future. Join us at Driftwood Middle School, where we prepare students for high school, college, and beyond with an engaging, innovative and supportive learning experience!



*Campus Tours Available
For more information contact
Nikki Artanis
Magnet Coordinator
754-323-3100*