

Sawgrass Springs Middle School

ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ACTION SPORTS



To explore skateboard anatomy, functions, and stance. Foster safer skating through practice of stance, falling and bailing out. Encourage spatial awareness and critical thinking with skatepark etiquette. Boost confidence and ability with balance, mechanics and control. Students will be assessed for their level of skateboarding and must improve daily. Student signing up for this course must be willing to invest into a skateboard, helmet, and wrist guards. **7TH AND 8TH GRADERS ONLY**

ART



ART CLASS 6

Art I (fondly known as Swamp Art I at SSMS) is a class designed to provide experiences necessary to produce a variety of exciting and interesting artwork. Using standard artist supplies in combination with items found around the house, Swamp Art I students will create things to wear, use as decoration, share with friends, give as gifts, use for promotion of school events, hang on their walls, and enhance the beauty of our campus. Some projects are individual and self-directed, while others require a group effort. Students learn art concepts, skills, and terminology which will be useful in other disciplines, as well. Creativity thrives in Swamp Art! We're always chompin' on something creative.

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Swamp Art II provides all the enjoyment of Swamp Art I...with a bit more focus on famous artists, various media, and art concepts. Students will continue to incorporate everyday items into creations which will be on display around our school and the City of Coral Springs. Swamp Art II gets students ready for their exploration of art in high school.

BAND 1, 2 & 3



Band students learn how to read music and rhythms and the fundamentals of performing on a Band instrument such as Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Saxophone, Bassoon, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba, and Percussion Instruments ('Drums & Bells). The class meets every day, students have written work on note and rhythm reading, watching/listening & observing musical performances and performing daily on their instruments.

- Students perform in a minimum of 3 Concerts per year in the evening as part of the requirements for class. There are other activities sponsored by the band program such as; Marching Band, Jazz Band, Percussion Ensemble, and Solo & Ensemble that meet after school. In addition to performing on campus our bands regularly perform at number of local schools and events such as performing for the Florida Marlins, The Coral Springs Holiday Parade, The Florida Panthers and have traveled in the past to Universal Studios, Walt Disney World, and Busch Gardens.
- We promote mentoring for students on their instruments with older students within the program as well as High Schoolers from Coral Glades HS. This gives students extra tutoring with more experienced musicians and promotes friendships as they move on through school.

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CHORUS

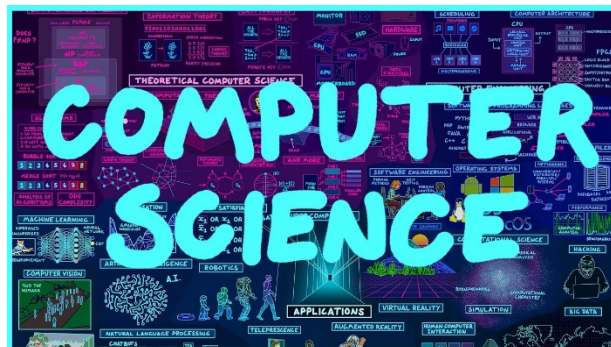


Chorus - In chorus, student will learn how to sing with proper technique and emotion. Students will also learn music theory and participate in concerts, field trips and music festivals throughout the school year. Students will also have the opportunity to work with clinicians throughout Florida, and invaluable experience. We take an annual trip towards the end of the school year where students will work with professional musicians in a workshop or participate in a competition followed by time in a theme park. No experience is required to participate in chorus, just an open mind.

COMPUTER FUNDAMENTALS

In this course, students will first learn the basic functions of computing and how to complete common computing tasks on various hardware platform including laptops, desktops, tablets and smartphones. They will also learn how to identify different computer software and will be exposed to basic operating systems, computer hardware, peripherals concepts, and some troubleshooting.

COMPUTER SCIENCE



Grade 6: Introduction to Programming using Python

This class is part of the Computer Science (CS) program at Sawgrass Springs Middle. CS is a 3-year program which will prepare students to get a strong understanding of computing



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and software platforms that will serve them well regardless of the future career paths. In addition, students who wish to pursue Software Engineering as a career will be ready for higher level Computer Science classes in High School.

This course covers Python, a very versatile programming language which can be used to power websites, build games, and even program hardware. This course is also an excellent course for someone new to programming, as many of the topics covered are basic programming topics which carry over well to other programming languages. Specifically, this course covers data types and operators, decisions and loops, input and output, code documentation and structure, troubleshooting, and modules and tools. The course topics directly map to the MTA 98-381 Industry Certification exam and will help anyone looking to improve their employability prospects in Python and for programming jobs in general. Students will also be introduced to Physical Computing concepts using the Micro:bit platform.

Grade 7: Web Development: Introduction to Programming using HTML and CSS This course is Year 2 of the Computer Science program at SSMS. Students will continue with more intermediate concepts in Computer Science.

The course is an excellent exposure to gain eventual employability skills in the area of web development. The material covers the objectives on the MTA 98-383 Industry Certification exam, putting a solid entry-level certification well within reach. Specifically, the course has two distinct parts: HTML (Hypertext Markup Language), which includes HTML fundamentals, document structuring, and multimedia presentation, and CSS (Cascading Style Sheets), which includes CSS fundamentals and styling webpages.

Students will also continue exploring more physical computing concepts using the Micro:bit platform.

Grade 8: This course is Year 3 of the Computer Science program at SSMS. This is a High School credit class. This class offers two main topics:

Windows Operating System Fundamentals

This course the opportunity to learn how to manage Windows 10 and gain the skills necessary to pass the MTA 98-349 Industry Certification exam. It includes Windows 10 topics: Understanding Operating System Configurations, Installing and Upgrading Client Systems, Managing Applications, Managing Files and Folders, Managing Devices, and Understanding Operating System Maintenance. This MTA certification is a precursor to an MCSA certification for Windows 10.

MTA Introduction to Programming using Java

Students will learn how to code in Java, a powerful object-oriented programming language. This course will also help students get ready to pass the MTA 98-388 Industry Certification exam and improve employability prospects for any software development position requiring

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Java coding skills. Specifically, this course covers Java fundamentals, data types and variables, flow control, object-oriented principles, and compiling and debugging code. These concepts are covered through simulating writing code for an online store, thus adding a real-life scenario to this course.

COMPUTER & BUSINESS APP & PRE-ENGINEERING (MOS CERTIFICATION)



The Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) Certification course at Sawgrass Springs Middle is a three-year course designed to get students industry certified. Earning this certification demonstrates that you have a deeper level of skills in key Office applications associated with the Microsoft Office Suite. This is the leading credential chosen by individuals seeking to validate their skills and advance their careers.

To accomplish (MOS) certification students will begin with Microsoft Office PowerPoint in 6th grade. The course is continued in 7th grade with students completing Microsoft Office Word. The course is completed in eight-grade under the umbrella heading Introduction to Engineering Design where students will complete their certification by taking Microsoft Office Excel and also receive one high school credit as an added bonus.

Upon successful completion of all three Office applications courses and all three certification exams students would have earned the certificate title of Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) Certified.

CULINARY ARTS



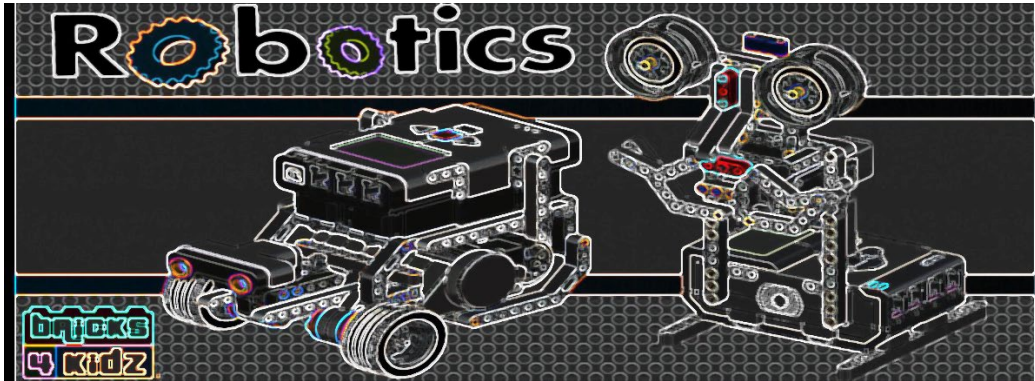
If you love to cook, or if you want to learn to love cooking, Culinary Arts is for you! This course features training in a wide variety of kitchen skills. It all starts with kitchen safety and cleanliness, a gets better as the year progresses. Many types of cuisines are explored, including Italian, Asian, Greek, and of course American inspired dishes. Students work together in teams to produce delicious and simplified creations. Culinary Arts will provide you useful and practical training that will last a lifetime. This course is offered to Eighth graders only. If you wish to continue your culinary journey beyond eighth grade, motivated students who excel in this course will be referred to the Culinary Ops class at Coral Glades

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High School. Space is limited, so sign up today for Culinary Arts! **OPEN TO 8TH GRADE ONLY** ***DUE TO THE COST OF FOOD, EQUIPMENT, AND PAPER GOODS, A \$25.00 SUPPLY FEE IS REQUIRED FOR THIS COURSE. INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW PAY THIS FEE WILL BE SENT HOME WITH THE STUDENT THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.***

Exploration of Robotics Technology



The purpose of this course is to give students an opportunity to explore robotics technology and its associated careers. Students will solve technological problems using a variety of tools, materials, processes and systems while gaining an understanding of the effects of robotics technology on their everyday lives.

ECO ADVENTURES



Eco-Adventures I

Eco-Adventures is an environmental elective providing opportunities for learning and discovery about current and relative environmental concerns impacting our community. Students participate in experimental learning from the approach of a casual exploration of the negative effects of human activity on nature and begin a quest for positive steps to reduce the human carbon footprint. The course also covers topics such as biodiversity, global warming/climate change, renewable energy, and so much more. Students participate



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in engaging activities such as labs, field trips, and crafts that allow student's learning to truly come alive and prepare them to be responsible citizens of our community.

Eco-Adventures II

PREREQUISITE: Eco-Adventures I, member of Nature Club or Nature Quest

DESCRIPTION: Dive deeper into the environmental science topics of Agriculture, Biodiversity, Endangered Species, Everglades Communities, Global Climate Change, Interdependence, Ocean Ecosystems, Renewable Energy, Sustainability, and Water Conservation. Develop leadership skills through service-learning projects and community outreach. Look forward to exciting field trips exploring the unique Everglades.

LIFE SKILLS



Life Skills is designed to increase student knowledge and skills necessary for everyday living. The course emphasizes goal setting, decision making and problem solving, communication, financial literacy, healthy lifestyles and relationships, nutrition, personal safety, citizenship and consumerism. **OPEN TO 6TH & 7 GRADE ONLY.**

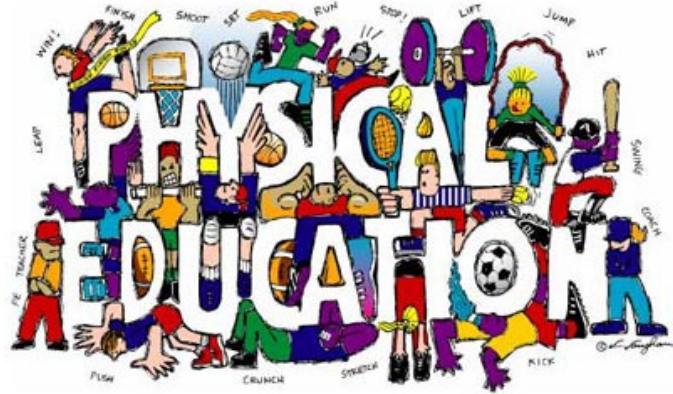
MIND SPACE



Mind Space Elective for tweens and teens. Students become mind body ambassadors while learning and experiencing mind body skills. Mind Space will include mind body activities such as: food as medicine, self-care, gratitude, movement(yoga, dance, Qi gong and other forms), positive affirmations, gratitude training, vision boards, bio dots, nature science, meditation and wisdom lessons shared with countries/cultures around the world for thousands of years.

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PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Physical Education classes are designed to practice and develop skills in activities that will help students maintain fitness throughout their life. Fitness levels will be assessed in the following areas: cardiovascular endurance, flexibility, muscular strength and muscular endurance



Spanish 1 - Available to 6TH, 7th & 8th grade students. This course provides students with a general introduction to the Spanish language, pronunciation, vocabulary related to everyday activities, basic grammatical structure, and cultural information. The student will develop communicative skills in all 3 modes of communication (interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational) and cross-cultural understanding. Emphasis is placed on proficient communication in the language. An introduction to reading and writing is also included as well as culture connections, comparisons, and communities. **THIS IS A HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL COURSE**

Spanish 2 - Available to 7TH & 8th grade students. Prerequisite-Spanish 1. This course reinforces the fundamental skills acquired by students in Spanish 1: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The course further develops communicative skills in all 3 modes of communication and cross-cultural understanding. Reading and writing



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receive more emphasis, while oral communication remains the primary objective. The cultural survey of the Spanish-speaking people is continued. **THIS IS A HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL COURSE**

Spanish for Spanish Speakers 1 - Available to 6TH, 7TH * & 8th grade students. This course enables students whose heritage language is Spanish to master their language skills across the three communicative modes as they develop knowledge of the Spanish language. Specific content includes, but is not limited to: 1) reinforcement of the students' communication skills: their ability to express ideas, feelings, and opinions in oral and written forms 2) further development of vocabulary and grammar skills 3) reading and interpretation of works of target language writers and 4) awareness and appreciation of the culture of the Spanish speaking people. **THIS IS A HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL COURSE**

SPEECH AND DEBATE



Speech and Debate imbues in student's self-confidence, and hones reasoning and analysis skills. Students who begin to practice public speaking at the middle school level will have a substantial advantage over their peers who do not. The brain, still developing, is shaped significantly and positively by these activities. The class will help learners see the power of deploying rational, reasoned arguments and compelling evidence in action. It enables them to elucidate their standpoint through utilizing rhetorical eloquence. This course will develop and improve public speaking, argumentative, and critical-thinking skill in communication settings. Students will prepare and deliver speeches and participate in several in class debates and tournaments on current topics. Techniques will be taught to control speech anxiety, and structure and organize. Decades of academic research have proven that the benefits that accrue as a result of engaging in debate are numerous. Debate provides experiences that are conducive to life-changing, cognitive, and presentational skills. In addition, through debate students acquire unique educational benefits as they learn and polish skills far beyond what can be learnt in any other setting. Later, in high

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school and college, students who have begun speech and debate may have the opportunity to take on leadership roles, such as president, debate captain, or coaching younger students. Improving your leadership skills is always a good idea, both for college application purposes and for your own personal development. **8th GRADE DEBATE - HIGH SCHOOL HONORS COURSE**

TV PRODUCTION



This class will serve as an introduction to basic television production with an emphasis on studio production of news programming. You will learn the basics of script writing, research, collaboration, lighting, editing, camera operation and audio as we provide a school wide daily news show and special programs. This course will also focus on Microsoft Office certification in PowerPoint and/or Word. By working independently through modules, you will develop the critical skills needed for proficiency on the Microsoft Office Specialist Certification Exams In addition, the content for this course includes communication skills, leadership skills, human relations and employability skills.

THEATER



Theater class is the only class where you can officially “Act Up!” This elective has a lot of energy and is very ACTive. We develop character in more ways than one. We learn how to respect ourselves and others on and off the stage. Students learn to act by participating in projects which require them to work alone in a monologue, or in groups to perform in duet

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scenes, enable scenes, musicals, and short plays. Students in the elective can join (ITS International Thespian Association) and participate in district and state drama festivals.

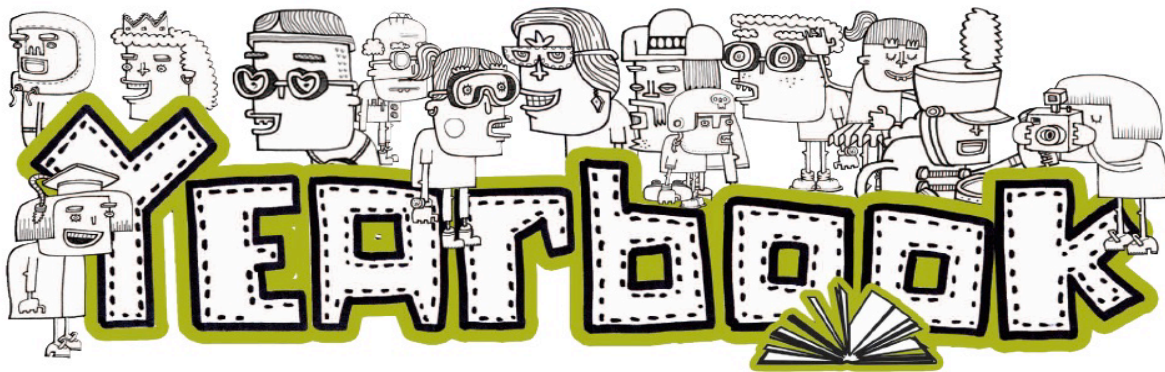
ITS members travel to Orlando every February to join over 4,000 other students statewide in the biggest middle school drama festival in the world!

Theatre 1: Students with no or little experience on stage.

Theatre 2: Students that have some acting experience or have taking Theatre 1



YEARBOOK/DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY ELECTIVE



Positive Paparazzi. Students in this elective will be charged with creating memories that last a lifetime. Students will learn about photography, design, marketing and journalism. Students will have hands-on learning experiences that enable them to learn how to use various cameras and lenses, how to photograph as well as learning to use Adobe Photoshop to create spectacular effects and enhance photos. Their work and vision will be seen in the creation of the yearbook and promotion videos. Students have the opportunity to participate in a fieldtrip like the Perez Museum to participate in photography workshops. Digital Technology students will take part in the leadership committee for the yearbook assuming roles such as Editor in Chief, Marketing & Promotion Manager, Photographer Manager and Business Manager.

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