



**Sawgrass Springs Middle School**  
**ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**  
**2022-2023**

**ART**



**ART CLASS**

**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.

**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**

All Band classes are open to all grade levels.

If you have any questions about which class you should sign up for, please see Ms. Attong-Mendes.

## **Band 1 – Beginning Band**

This class is for students with no band/music experience. Students will learn music theory basics, and they will select one of the following instruments to learn: flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, euphonium, tuba, or percussion. Students are required to perform at 2 concerts each school year, and additional performance opportunities (parades, recruiting, etc.) are optional.

Audition requirements: None.

## **Band 2 – Concert Band**

This class is for students with intermediate band experience (1 year or more). Students will learn scales on their instrument as well as large ensemble music and will continue to progress on their instrument. Students are required to perform at 2 concerts each school year, and additional performance opportunities (parades, recruiting, etc.) are optional. 6th graders with previous experience on a Band instrument may enroll in Band 2 following a successful meeting/audition with Ms. Attong-Mendes.

Audition requirements:

Play 2 scales

Perform ONE of the following lines from Essential Elements for Band, Book 1: #53 (A line or B line), 78, 90, 106, 118

Sight reading

If returning from Band 1, student must have a C (70%) or higher in Band for the third and fourth quarter.

## **Band 3 – Symphonic Band**

This class is for students with advanced band experience (2 years or more). Students will learn advanced band music, scales, and solo repertoire on their instrument. Students will be prepared to enter a high school band program if they would like to. Students are required to perform at 2 concerts each school year and a Music Performance Assessment. Additional performance opportunities (parades, recruiting, etc.) are optional.

Audition requirements:

Play 3 scales from the one octave scale sheet.

Perform a solo suitable for your instrument and playing ability.

## Sight reading

If returning from Band 1 or 2, student must have a B (80%) or higher in Band for the third and fourth quarter.

### **Band for HS Credit – 8th grade ONLY**

Students in 8th grade can take Band for High School credit. This class is the same class as Symphonic Band; however, students receiving high school credit will have to complete additional requirements, as well as take a midterm and a final exam. Students will learn advanced band music, scales, and solo repertoire on their instrument. Students will be prepared to enter a high school band program if they would like to. Students are required to perform at 2 concerts each school year and a Music Performance Assessment. Additional performance opportunities (parades, recruiting, etc.) are optional. Audition requirements for High School credit are the same as for Symphonic Band, EXCEPT that student must have an B+ (87%) or higher in Band for the third and fourth quarter.

### **Jazz Band**

Jazz Band is a voluntary club that meets once a week after school. Students in Jazz Band will learn the basics of jazz music performance principles, and will perform music in a variety of styles (swing, rock, pop, funk, Latin, etc.) Jazz Band students will also have opportunities to perform at school events and sporting events. Jazz Band students will be required to perform at 2 concerts each school year.

Audition requirements:

Must be in Concert Band or Symphonic Band.

Audition music will be given out at the beginning of the school year.

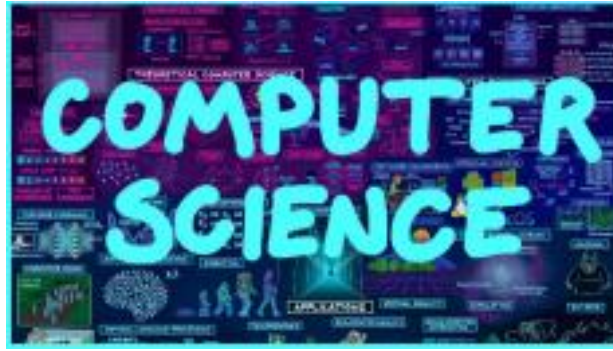
Auditions will be held after school during the second week of school.

## **CHORUS**



Chorus - In chorus, students 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 SCIENCE



**The Computer Science (CS) program at Sawgrass Springs Middle is a 3-year program** which will prepare students to get a strong understanding of software programming for a strong technical foundation for any future career path.

Each year, students will take a professional Certification Exam sanctioned by the District and the Florida Department of Education. Students who pass the exam will receive a Professional Industry Certificate. During the program, students can earn up to 3 Industry Certifications in Python, HTML and Java programming, plus one HS credit.

Students enrolled in this program will automatically be registered for the next year class. In 9th grade (HS), they meet the prerequisite for Cambridge and AP Computer Science Classes (College Level CS classes).

## **Grade 6: Python programming**

This course covers Python, a very versatile programming language which is used to develop some of the widely used applications today by world class companies. This is also an excellent course for someone new to programming. Many of the topics covered are basic programming concepts which will carry over well to other programming languages providing a solid programming foundation to students. They also will be prepared to take the Python Industry Certification Exam.

Prerequisite: None

## **Grade 7: HTML/CSS Programming**

This course will teach students looking to gain employability skills in the area of Web page development. Specifically, the course has two distinct parts: Web page programming (HTML) and Web page Styling (CSS). Web concepts used to power very well-known web sites will be learned. Students will code their own Web site and get ready for the HTML Industry Certification Exam.

Prerequisite: None

## **Grade 8: Java Programming (HS Credit)**

This course will teach students how to code in Java, a programming language that powers many today's powerful and widely used applications. Students will also be introduced to the powerful programming concept of object-oriented programming. Students will code applications and get prepared for their Java Industry Certification exam. They will also earn One HS credit.

Prerequisite: None but some prior coding exposure preferred

## 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 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The course is continued in 7<sup>th</sup> 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



**Culinary-** 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 and 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 High School. Space is limited, so sign up today for Culinary Arts! **OPEN TO 8<sup>TH</sup> 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

**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 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 6<sup>TH</sup> & 7 GRADE ONLY.**

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL MEDICAL SKILLS**

**Medical Skills** is an overview aligned with the high school credit course at Coral Glades High School through their HOSA program. This class will be an introductory course taken prior to the high school credit Medical Skills course which then leads them into the Allied Assisting program. Students will be introduced to medical terms, concepts and skills related to many of the health care decisions made in our lifetime. Students will also be introduced to a variety of different health related careers including radiology, nursing, medicine, dentistry, animal health, and many more.

## **ORCHESTRA**

**Orchestra** - In orchestra students will learn how to play a string instrument of their choice (Violin, Viola, Cello or Bass). Students will learn the history of the instruments, music theory, participate in concerts, field trips and music festivals throughout the school year. Students will also have the opportunity to work with high schoolers from Coral Glades as well as 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 (or instrument) is required to participate in chorus, just an open mind.

## **PEER COUNSELING**

**Peer counseling** is designed to develop and enhance the health, safety and well being of our students by focusing on peer education through a comprehensive program and curriculum that encompasses social and emotional skills and awareness, peer mediation, academic opportunity, and student service. Through classroom instruction, role-playing and skill building activities, peer counselors develop basic knowledge and life skills to help their peers with academic and individual concerns. This course is an elective class that provides a full range of services to students, the school and the zone through structured in-school and outreach activities. In addition to working with students individually and in groups, the peer counselors provide a variety of other services. They act as conflict mediators and peer tutors, assist special groups or students within the school and the zone, provide classroom presentations on teen issues, welcome new students and promote special violence and substance abuse prevention projects and initiatives.

## **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**

**Spanish 1 - Available to 6<sup>TH</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>TH</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> 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 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 6<sup>TH</sup>, 7<sup>TH</sup>\* & 8<sup>th</sup> 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 a 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 skills 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 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**

The Art of Movie Making at SSMS. Students serve as the information communications/school spirit hub for the entire school community. Students use a variety of technology platforms including our fully equipped television studio to anchor school announcements, write, direct, act and produce movies on all school activities and educate/entertain the student population.

# THEATER/DRAMA

**Drama** 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 scenes, ensemble 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 taken Theatre 1

## YEARBOOK/DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY ELECTIVE

### Yearbook/Digital Technology Elective

**Positive Papparazzi.** 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 field trip 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.