

8th Grade Elective Choices 2020-2021

Art Exploration - In this course, students will learn basic artistic techniques and use a variety of media to produce 2-Dimensional and 3-Dimensional original creative artwork.

Beginning Chorus - Students with little or no choral experience develop beginning vocal technique and skills, critical and creative thinking skills, and an appreciation of music from around the world and through time. Public performances will serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. Students will be required to attend and/or participate in rehearsals and performances outside the school day to support learning in the classroom.

Chess - Students will use the game of chess to improve problem-solving, critical thinking, pattern recognition, focus and concentration.

Concert Band for Beginners - The Beginning Band is designed to provide students with an introductory experience on band instruments and increase awareness of students with prior experience on the beginning level. Course goals are to introduce students to the fundamental skills involved in playing a musical instrument and heighten each student's aesthetic awareness through the musical arts.

Creative Writing – The purpose of this course is to enable students to learn and use writing and language skills for creative expression in a variety of literary forms. Emphasis will be on development of a personal writing style.

Explorations in Movement and Dance - Students are introduced to dance technique and movement vocabulary in one or more dance forms. In the process, dancers demonstrate use of class and performance etiquette, analytical and problem-solving skills, and studio practices in a safe dance environment. Students may be required to attend and/or participate in rehearsals and performances outside the school day to support learning in the classroom. Students in this class may need to obtain (e.g., borrow, purchase) appropriate footwear and/or dance attire from an outside source.

Global Scholars - Students develop knowledge of global citizenship, 21st century skills, oral and written application skills and technology proficiency along with communicating with participating schools around the world.

Introduction to Drama - Students are introduced to the core components of theatre: acting, directing, playwriting and set design. Public performances may serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. Students may be required to attend and/or participate in rehearsals and performances outside the school day to support learning in the classroom.

Introduction to Orchestra - The course is designed to provide students with an introductory experience on string instruments and increase awareness of students with prior experience on the

beginning level. Course goals are to introduce students to the fundamental skills involved in playing a musical instrument and heighten each student's aesthetic awareness through the musical arts.

Peer Counseling 1 - To be a peer counselor **you must have a 3.0 GPA**. Through classroom instruction, role-playing, and skill building activities, peer counselors are trained to help their fellow students. Peer counselors help by peer tutoring, peer mediating, and peer counseling. Along with daily peer activities, students will participate in several field trips doing community projects enhancing your overall learning experience. To be a peer counselor, you **MUST** be a person who enjoys helping.

Peer Counseling 2 - The purpose of this course is to enable students to further develop awareness of self and others. Emphasis will be on acquisition of intermediate level skills for thoughtful planning, peer facilitation, effective communication and making healthy choices

SEL Ambassador – Student Leadership - The course will address social emotional well-being and life skills. Students will be trained on mindfulness practices, mindful movement, and leadership skills. Students will develop positive relationships with peers, staff and themselves. Students will integrate SEL Standards with Critical Thinking, Research, Communication skills, healthy decision making and leadership development. As leaders of the school they will work on service projects on behalf of the school and the wider community. This interactive course works to cultivate self-management, compassion, and a love for life-long learning.

Study Hall - The purpose and intent of this course is to allow students to complete outside assignments within the period of the school day.

Technology through STEAM – This course selection includes the offering of any one of the below course contents or a combination of the same.

- **Computer Science** - This middle school course will allow students to discover computer science concepts and skills by creating personally relevant, tangible, and shareable projects. Throughout the unit, students will learn about programming for the physical world by blending hardware design and software development. They will design and develop a physical computing device, interactive art installation, or wearable, and plan and develop code for microcontrollers that bring their physical designs to life.
- **IC3 Digital Literacy** - The IC3 Digital Literacy suite of products includes solutions that range from assessment to certification. In addition, as a truly global standard, IC3 is as comprehensive as it is diverse. With learning and practice solutions, assessment tools, and certifications specifically designed for a variety of ages and occupations, the IC3 Digital Literacy program is simply the best way to ensure that students and employees are prepared to succeed in a technology-based world.
- **Robotics/Drones** - Construct, build, and propel yourself through this exciting hands-on adventure! Do you know what a robot can do? Get ready to take control! You will build robots, program them to accomplish tasks, respond to external stimuli, and overcome challenges.

- **Web Design** - Are you interested in designing web pages or creating flyers? If so, this class is for you! Through web design training, you will learn the basics of creating and designing your own web page by using web page elements, color, HTML coding, graphical user interface tools, integration of multimedia and more. Through Microsoft Office Word and its tools, you will learn how to create new documents such as flyers, menus, posters and invitations. This course is a great introduction to web design and the Microsoft Office suite.

World Music Drumming - It is the philosophy of the World Music Drumming Curriculum that all members of a drumming ensemble work together in harmony to become a solid performing unit. Performances of drum ensembles and songs from Africa, Latin America, Native American, Asian, Middle Eastern, and the Caribbean are not limited to the classroom setting.

Yearbook/Journalism - In this course, students will be involved in the entire yearbook process (print layouts, photography, print copy, design, and advertising). Students should be available to work outside of the normal school day when deadlines are approaching. Student GPA, behavior and teacher recommendations will be considered when determining who will be selected for this class.

Electives for High School Credit

African/African American History - This course examines African American History from the perspective of the African people. It provides a new view of history by introducing students to the African American population, its diverse cultures and rich legacy of resistance to injustice, and inequality. The perseverance of the African people and their enumerable contributions to America's legacy is discussed in detail. In addition, this course investigates Africa's Classical history as was shaped by its physical geography and human activity. The course examines Ancient African civilizations whose pioneering achievements in such fields as mathematics, science, government, arts and culture influenced the development of civilizations throughout Europe, Asia and the Americas from prehistoric times to the 16th century. **THIS IS A HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL COURSE AND IT WILL AFFECT YOUR HIGH SCHOOL GPA.**

Debate 1 Honors – This class is an introduction to the world of Speech and Debate and may be offered for HS credit. A variety of speaking skills and techniques will be covered, from the basic to the complex. Students should be prepared to participate in both speech presentations and formal/informal debates. They should be comfortable working in small groups, researching different topics, and memorizing material. **THIS IS A HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL COURSE AND IT WILL AFFECT YOUR HIGH SCHOOL GPA.**

Spanish 1 (Non-Honors) - Provide students with a general introduction to the Spanish language, pronunciation, vocabulary related to everyday activities, and basic grammatical structure. The students will develop communicative skills in all three modes of communication (interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational) as well as cross-cultural understanding. Emphasis is placed on proficient communication in the language. An introduction to reading and writing is also

included as well as the culture of Spanish speaking countries and people. **THIS IS A HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL COURSE AND IT WILL AFFECT YOUR HIGH SCHOOL GPA.**

Spanish 2 - Prerequisite- Spanish I (Non-Honors) - This class is designed to give students the opportunity to reinforce the fundamental skills acquired by students in Spanish I: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The course further develops communicative skills in all three modes of communication (interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational) as well as cross-cultural understanding. Reading and writing receive emphasis, while oral communication remains the primary objective. Students will learn about the culture of Spanish speaking countries. **THIS IS A HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL COURSE AND IT WILL AFFECT YOUR HIGH SCHOOL GPA.**

Performing and Visual Arts Magnet Program

The Performing and Visual Arts Magnet Program affords student the opportunity to enroll in an award-winning program that exposes the students to college-level rigor that will inspire, motivate and prepare your child for a career in the Performing and Visual Arts.

Visual Arts - The Two-Dimensional Art Program includes the study of the design elements and principles, the use of contour line, gesture drawing, mass value and line, portraits and figure drawing, and working with watercolor painting, acrylic paints, tempera, gouache, printmaking, lettering, and collage. The Three-Dimensional Art Program is an intense study of creation of three-dimensional forms through a variety of media.

Piano & Music Production - The Parkway SOTA Piano, Songwriting & Music Technology program is an innovative program, which incorporates traditional piano methods with the latest in music technology and software. This unique program was designed to develop young aspiring pianists and songwriters in the fields of songwriting, composition, music theory, music technology, music history and performance.

Band & Instrumental Tech – The Parkway Middle School of the Arts Band program focuses on developing musicianship, good rehearsal habits, and the ability to work as a part of a team. In this aim, students are assigned to one of three band classes depending on the level of their musical development. Course goals are to introduce students to the fundamental skills involved in playing a musical instrument and heighten each student's aesthetic awareness through the musical arts.

Dance - Students in the dance program will demonstrate an understanding and proper use of dance terminology, demonstrate control of body balance and correct alignment, be able to move freely with flexibility and agility within a wide range of movement, improve their own strength and physical conditioning and demonstrate proficiency in the techniques of the basic movements of dance.

Vocal (Vocal Techniques I-III, Vocal Ensemble I-III) - Student musicians build on previous instruction to develop high levels of musicianship, technical proficiency, and performance skills

through preparation of technically challenging scales, choral, and solo literature. Students use problem-solving, critical thinking, and reflection to demonstrate the skills of disciplined performers. Public performances, district, and state level assessments serve as a culmination of instructional goals. Students are required to attend and participate in rehearsals and performances outside the school day to support learning in the classroom.

Theatre - Topics explored include, but are not limited to, acting, directing, playwriting, theatre history, technical theatre, theatrical design & management, and musical theatre. Students are actively engaged through classwork, co-curricular production experiences, and extra-curricular involvement in the International Thespian Society.

World Music Drumming - It is the philosophy of the World Music Drumming Curriculum that all members of a drumming ensemble work together in harmony to become a solid performing unit. Performances of drum ensembles and songs from Africa, Latin America, Native American, Asian, Middle Eastern, and the Caribbean are not limited to the classroom setting.

Technical Theatre - This course will explore the design and implementation of the various elements that combine behind the scenes to create theatre: scenery, props, costumes, hair/makeup, lighting, sound, and marketing/publicity. Content will include skill building, design projects, extracurricular tech work for various shows, and potential competition at local and state levels. Teacher recommendation and interview required.

S.T.E.M to STEAM Magnet Program

The Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) Magnet Program affords students the opportunity to enroll in a dynamic and powerful applied science program that will inspire and motivate your child to invent, create, and solve problems, while learning the citizenry and technological skills needed in to compete in tomorrow's world.

Environmental Science/Meteorology – This course is an integrated Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) course for middle school students which includes an integration of standards from science, mathematics, and english language arts (ELA) through the application to STEM problem solving using environmental sciences knowledge and science and engineering practices. Environmental sciences through applications such as ecosystem management, human-environmental impact, ecology and agriculture, land and resource management, and civil and environmental engineering, are emphasized in this course. Laboratory investigations that include the use of scientific inquiry, research, measurement, problem solving, laboratory apparatus and technologies, experimental procedures, and safety procedures are an integral part of this course. Students should have multiple opportunities every week to explore science laboratory investigations (labs) where the students have opportunities to interact directly with natural phenomena or with data collected by others using tools, materials, data collection techniques, and models to help students develop a growing understanding of the complexity and ambiguity of empirical work, as well as the skills to calibrate and troubleshoot equipment used to make observations.

Holistic Horticulture and Agriculture - this course selection includes the offering of any one of the below course contents or a combination of the same.

- **Campus Beautification** - The purpose of this elective is to help the students see how important and rewarding it is to keep the Parkway Middle School campus beautiful. Students are taught how to keep the campus clean, organized, beautiful and help them develop the love of lending a hand.
- **Gardening** - In this elective, students will practice beginning gardening skills, both in containers and outdoors. Gardening activities will include growing plants from kitchen scraps, from mature plants, and from seeds. Students will help decide what types of plants to grow, maintain, and harvest, after we work together to set goals for our garden design and harvest.

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