

RICKARDS MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVES FOR 2023-24 FOR 8th GRADE STUDENTS

Students should choose their top 4 choices for their electives, where “1” would be their first choice, “2” their second choice, “3” their third choice, and “4” their fourth choice. Some students, based on their ELA test scores may only get one elective, where some students may get two electives based on their ELA test scores. Due to the overwhelming number of students who express interest and qualify for these electives, some students may not be scheduled into a class. Although providing students with their 1st and 2nd elective choice is a priority, some circumstances may not permit this to happen. In addition, student interest determines which electives will be scheduled for next school year. If enough interest is not generated by students for an elective, that elective will not be scheduled.

Peer Counseling II - 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. **(Year Round)**

Advanced Information Technology- is an introductory Computer Science class created for Middle and High School students. The course takes a wide lens on computer science by covering topics such as programming, physical computing, web languages, and data. The course inspires students as they build their own websites, apps, games, and physical computing devices. Using Code.org's Computer Science Discoveries curriculum, students learn the principles of teamwork, problem solving and communication alongside fundamental skills in HTML, CSS, Javascript and app development. **THIS IS A HIGH SCHOOL HONORS LEVEL COURSE AND IT WILL AFFECT YOUR HGH SCHOOL GPA. (Year Round)**

Physical Education- Soccer, football, basketball, track, and other modified games; fitness testing; cardiovascular activities. **(Year Round)**

Spanish I - 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 HGH SCHOOL GPA. (Year Round)**

Spanish II - Prerequisite- Spanish I. 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 also have the opportunity to learn about the culture of Spanish speaking countries. **THIS IS A HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL COURSE AND IT WILL AFFECT YOUR HGH SCHOOL GPA. (Year Round)**

Spanish for Spanish Speakers I - The purpose of this course is to enable students whose heritage language is Spanish to develop, maintain, and enhance proficiency in their heritage language by reinforcing and acquiring skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing, including the fundamentals of

Spanish grammar. Language Arts Standards are also included in this course to enable students to become literate in the Spanish language and gain a better understanding of the nature of their own language as well as other languages to be acquired. The course content will reflect the cultural values of Spanish language and societies. **THIS IS A HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL COURSE AND IT WILL AFFECT YOUR HIGH SCHOOL GPA. (Year Round)**

Band - The **Intermediate Band or Advanced Band** classes are designed to provide students with an increase awareness of students with prior experience on the intermediate and advanced instrument playing level. Course goals are to enhance students skills involved in playing a musical instrument and heighten each student's aesthetic awareness through the musical arts. General: The Rickards Middle School 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 the two higher level band classes depending on the level of their musical development. **Must have Ms. Luechauer's Signature to be in Advanced Band. (Year Round)**

Yearbook - 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. **(Year Round)**

Debate 1- The purpose of this course is to develop students' beginning awareness, understanding, and application of language arts as it applies to oral communication concepts and strategies for public debate in a variety of given settings. **THIS IS A HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL COURSE AND IT WILL AFFECT YOUR HIGH SCHOOL GPA. (Year Round)**

Aviation- The middle school aerospace course has components of Minecraft airport design, cybersecurity, engineering, rocketry, unmanned systems, and aeronautical sciences. The course is designed with four cornerstone projects in which students will explore concepts by brainstorming, designing, building, analyzing, and presenting their work. This is an exploratory STEM course designed to inspire further study in STEM careers and coursework. **(Year Round)**