



Westglades Middle School

2019 - 2020

Elective Course Offerings Guide

Grades 6 – 8

Mr. Matthew Bianchi, Principal

Principal's Message

Dear Students and Parents,

All 5th, 6th, and 7th grade students will be receiving course cards for the 2019 - 2020 school year. I urge all students and parents to take time to review these cards and discuss classes for next year. This discussion should take into account plans for high school and beyond as well. This *2019 -2020 Course Offering Directory* will assist you in selecting your courses for the upcoming school year. We are very proud of our curriculum program and will continue to have high expectations while fostering a warm, caring, and safe environment to enhance learning for all.

We challenge you to set high expectations for yourself and follow it through with hard work and dedication. In doing this, you will ensure a bright future ahead.

Students will be placed appropriately into core classes using test scores, previous grades, and teacher recommendations. You will also see our elective offerings. Please review these offerings and choose the best that coincide with your plans and interests. We will try to provide your first and/or second choices. We believe that electives are a great way to motivate students through the middle school years.

Get involved! **Students** will benefit by joining our many extra-curricular activities. This is a great way for students to meet friends, enhance learning, and promote good citizenship/character. **Parents and guardians** are invited to stay involved in your students' education by joining our School Advisory Council (SAC), Volunteer Team (getinvolvedineducation.com), Parent Teacher Association, and School Advisory Forum (SAF). Faculty, staff, and administration are looking forward to a rewarding 2018 - 2019 for you.

If you have any questions, your grade level counselor can answer your questions. Please call our main line at 754-322-4800, and we will be glad to assist.

Respectfully,

Matthew Bianchi
Principal
Westglades Middle School

LEADERSHIP TEAM

ADMINISTRATION

MATTHEW BIANCHI, PRINCIPAL

SHAANTE COLLIE, 6TH GRADE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

SHARI SCHWARTZ, 7TH GRADE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

ERIC O'NEAL, 8TH GRADE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

CHRISTINE WILSON, GUIDANCE DIRECTOR, 7TH GRADE COUNSELOR

TAKEACEA MITCHELL – 6TH GRADE COUNSELOR

SUZANNE DESROSIERS – 8TH GRADE COUNSELOR

SUPPORT STAFF

DIONE REED, EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION SPECIALIST

GIA ROBERTS, LITERACY COACH

JENNY STRATOS, MEDIA SPECIALIST

RAY HANESKI, TECHNOLOGY LIAISON

KIM VALENZ, OFFICE MANAGER

DEPUTY HOPE LEVIN, SRD

WMS ELECTIVE COURSE OFFERINGS

We believe that the students' years at Westglades Middle School will provide them with successful and positive experiences. Students will encounter many opportunities for academic, physical, social, and emotional growth. They will not only enhance their present skills and abilities, but also be better prepared for success in the next grade as well as future endeavors. Course descriptions are as follows:

Spanish 1 (7/8 Grade)

*High School Credit

Spanish I introduces students to the target language and its culture. The student will develop communicative skills in all 3 modes of communication 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. Course Standards and Benchmarks are aligned to Florida Standards. Students may be placed in this course based off of their FSA Reading scores.

Spanish 2 (8 Grade)

*High School Credit

Spanish II reinforces the fundamental skills acquired by the students in Spanish I. The course develops increased listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills as well as cultural awareness. Specific content to be covered is a continuation of listening and oral skills acquired in Spanish I. Reading and writing receive more emphasis, while oral communication remains the primary objective. The cultural survey of the target language speaking people is continued. Course Standards and Benchmarks are aligned to Florida

Spanish for Spanish Speakers 1 (7/8 Grade)

*High School Credit

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. Course Standards and Benchmarks are aligned to Common Core Standards. The course content will reflect the cultural values of Spanish language cultures and societies.

PREREQUISITES: Placement Test

Spanish for Spanish Speakers 2 (8 Grade)

*High School Credit

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.

Drama 1 (6/7/8 Grade)

The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop fundamental knowledge and skills in the elements of theatre arts. This course should give students the opportunity to participate in acting, characterization, movement, vocal production, pantomime, improvisation, theatre terminology, dramatic literature, historical, cultural, and societal perspectives, technical theatre, playwriting, artistic discipline, audience etiquette, roles, and careers in theatre arts. This course provides a blended implementation of the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards and the Florida Standards.

Chorus 1 (6/7/8 Grade)

The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop fundamental vocal musicianship, technical skills, and aesthetic awareness through the study and performance of varied middle/junior high choral literature. The content should include: vocal production -choral performance techniques; music literacy; elements and characteristics of music –improvisation, composition, and arranging -performance analysis; role and influence of choral music and musicians; connections between music and other subject areas; responsible participation in music activities. This course generally requires students to participate in extra rehearsals and performances beyond the school day.

Chorus 2 (7/8 Grade)

The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop basic vocal musicianship, technical skills, and aesthetic awareness through the study and performance of varied middle grades choral literature. The content should include: vocal production; -choral performance techniques; -music literacy; -elements and characteristics of music; -improvisation, composition, and arranging; -performance analysis; -role and influence of choral music and musicians; - connections between music and other subject areas - responsible participation in music activities. This course generally requires students to participate in extra rehearsals and performances beyond the school day.

Band 1 (6/7/8 Grade)

The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop fundamental skills on wind or percussion instruments through the refinement and performance of middle/junior high band literature. The content should include: -technical skills -individual and ensemble techniques - music literacy -elements and characteristics of music -improvisation, composition, and arranging -performance analysis -role and influence of instrumental music and musicians -connections between music and other subject areas - instrument care and maintenance -responsible participation in music activities. This course generally requires students to participate in extra rehearsals and performances beyond the school day. Additional costs may be assessed for various enrichment activities.

Band II and III (6/7/8 Grade)

The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop basic skills on wind or percussion instruments through the refinement and performance of middle/junior high band literature. The content should include: -technical skills -individual and ensemble techniques –music literacy -elements and characteristics of music -improvisation, composition, and arranging -performance analysis -role and influence of instrumental music and musicians -connections between music and other subject areas - instrument care and maintenance -responsible participation in music activities. This course generally requires students to participate in extra rehearsals and performances beyond the school day. Additional costs may be assessed for various enrichment activities.

Band IV (7/8 Grade)

*High School Credit

The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop intermediate-level skills on wind or percussion instruments through the refinement and performance of middle/junior high band literature. The content should include: -technical skills -individual and ensemble techniques - music literacy -elements and characteristics of music -improvisation, composition, and arranging -performance analysis -role and influence of instrumental music and musicians -connections between music and other subject areas - instrument care and maintenance -responsible participation in music activities. This course generally requires students to participate in extra rehearsals and performances beyond the school day. Additional costs may be assessed for various enrichment activities.

Orchestra I (6/7/8 Grade)

The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop fundamental skills on string or other orchestral instruments through the refinement and performance of middle/junior high orchestra literature. The content should include: -technical skills-individual and ensemble techniques-music literacy-elements and characteristics of music-improvisation, composition, and arranging-performance analysis-role and influence of orchestral music and musicians connections between music and other subject areas-instrument care and maintenance responsible participation in music activities. This course generally requires students to participate in extra rehearsals and performances beyond the school day. Additional costs may be assessed for various enrichment activities.

Orchestra II (7/8 Grade)

The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop basic skills on string or other orchestral instruments through the refinement and performance of middle/junior high orchestra literature. The content should include: -technical skills-individual and ensemble techniques-music literacy-elements and characteristics of music-improvisation, composition, and arranging-performance analysis-role and influence of orchestral music and musicians connections between music and other subject areas-instrument care and maintenance responsible participation in music activities. This course generally requires students to participate in extra rehearsals and performances beyond the school day. Additional costs may be assessed for various enrichment activities.

Art I (7/8 Grade)

Art 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 students will create things to wear, use for decoration, share with friends, give as gifts, use for advertising, 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, terminology, and skills which will be useful in other capacities, as well.

Art II (8 Grade)

The purpose of Art Advanced Art is for the students to use what they have learned in Art 1 and develop core advanced skills through production of two dimensional and three dimensional works of art. Production activities may include drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, animation. Art 1 is a prerequisite for this course.

The content should include, but not be limited to the following

- use of tools
- two dimensional media, three dimensional media, technology, and process
- perception and observation
- imagery and visual language
- critical thinking and analysis
- historical and cultural perspectives
- connections between visual arts and other subject areas
- career opportunities
- visual elements and design principles

Introduction to Debate (6 Grade)

This is an introductory course designed to afford students the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of speech writing, public speaking, and debating. Students will increase their understanding of what it takes to construct an argumentative essay. They will be exposed to choosing a platform, researching their platform and participating in mock debates in support of their platform.

Speech I (7 Grade)

*High School Credit

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the competitive speech events as sanctioned by the National Speech and Debate Association. Students will learn the basics of speech and debate competition and other necessary components such as tournament etiquette and performance strategies. We will be covering a vast amount of material in a short time. The content is rigorous. Students will use a variety of means to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the content such as interactive activities, group and individual projects, as well as group and individual performances. Due to the high school credit, students in this course will be privileged and required to attend competitive debate tournaments.

Debate I (8 Grade)

*High School Credit

The objective of this course is to increase students' understanding of argument, critical thinking, and public speaking through a myriad of current event-related debate, speech, and interpretive activities. We will learn about and practice structured speeches with emphasis on verbal and nonverbal delivery skills (organization, projection, inflection, eye-contact, hand gestures, and more). Students will use a variety of means to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of course content. A foundation for effective argumentation and advocacy will be built by participating in mock debates and ultimately presenting one-research-based persuasive speech. As a result, many tools will be used to instruct students such as interactive activities, group and individual projects, group and individual performances, quizzes, and essays. Due to the Honors requirement, students in this course will also **BE REQUIRED** (and privileged) to attend competitive debate tournaments.

Peer Counseling I and II (7/8 Grade)

Peer counseling is a two year (prerequisite screening) curriculum 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, student service and referral. 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.

Introduction to Multimedia (6 Grade)

The Multimedia Communications course is an exciting computer project based course that will promote college and career skills. Students will use technology to create projects to include but not limited to TV commercials, short videos, quick report, daily live news, and informational videos.

Multimedia Communications II (Grade 7/8)

The second year course in Exploring Multimedia Communications will enable students to continue applying their core curriculum knowledge of planning, organizing and using their skills to creatively make TV programming. Students will write different video scripts, shoot their videos and edit videos for sound and picture quality to match written scripts.

Foundations of Pre-Engineering and Finance (6 Grade)

This is the year 1 course for 6th grade students who are interested in the Pre-Engineering track as well as the Finance Academy track. Students will participate in a global business simulation that offers a competitive edge through project-based, collaborative learning. Utilizing a Virtual Enterprises curriculum, students will participate in various web-based activities that aid in the development of 21st century learners. All students will become Microsoft Word certified at the conclusion of the course. After successful completion of this course, students will decide which academy path, Engineering or Finance, they will continue on for year 2.

Pre-Engineering II (Grade 7)

Pre-Engineering students at Westglades Middle will gain an opportunity to explore the area of communications technology and its associated careers. Students will be given the opportunity to solve technological problems using a variety of tools, materials, processes and systems while gaining an understanding of the effects of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) on our everyday lives. Strong Emphasis is placed upon the fundamentals of drafting using traditional and digital methodologies – will encompass most of the year. Students will be immersed in 2-D and 3-D modeling and design techniques and tools. They will utilize and be exposed to a variety of digital formats and media, including industry recognized 2D (CAD) and 3D computer modeling software such as Rhino. Students will also take Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) Word industry certification exam as a part of this course. Successful completion of Pre-Engineering I, passing of the MOS PowerPoint exam, and teacher recommendation are required elements for this class.

Engineering Design I Honors (8 Grade)

*High School Credit/ Microsoft Office Specialist Certification

This high school honors course exposes students to: the design process, research and analysis, teamwork, communication methods, global and human impacts, engineering standards, and technical documentation. Students will employ engineering and scientific concepts in the solution of engineering design problems. In addition, they will learn to use industry recognized 3D modeling design software (Rhino and Mastercam) to design solutions to problems. Students will develop problem-solving skills and apply their knowledge of research and design to create solutions, document the process, and communicate the results. This course places a strong emphasis on manufacturing and fabrication, using 3-D computer software, tools, and machinery. This course satisfies the “practical art” requirement for graduation, and there is no End of Course (EOC) exam required. Students will take the Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) Outlook Exam as a part of this course. Successful completion of Pre-Engineering II, passing of the MOS WORD exam, and teacher recommendation are required elements for this class.

Fundamentals of Finance (7 Grade)

Fundamentals of Finance provides students the opportunity to become familiar with the finance career field. This is the year two course for those continuing on the Finance track. Through classroom instruction and lab procedures, students will develop fundamental knowledge and skills in general economics, financial securities, banking concepts, and credit and consumer lending. Certification in MOS PowerPoint will be awarded upon successfully passing the Microsoft Certification exam.

Finance I - Introduction to Finance and Career Planning (8 Grade)

*High School Credit/Microsoft Office Specialist Certification

The purpose of this course is to assist students in making informed decisions regarding their future academic and occupational goals and to provide information regarding careers in the Finance career cluster. The content includes but is not limited to instruction in elements of the financial industry: planning; management; finance; economics; technical and production skills; underlying principles of technology; labor issues; community issues and health, safety, and environmental issues; risk management liability; and health, life, and disability insurance. The path begins with an overview of globalization, including world factors pushing organizations to expand into other markets to remain viable. Students explore cultural and political differences that affect organization operations and decision-making. Reinforcement of academic skills occurs through classroom instruction and applied laboratory procedures.

Physical Education (6/7/8 Grade)

The Physical Education Department is regarded as a vital and dynamic phase of every educational program. Our program provides opportunities for every individual so they can achieve their highest potential and learn the importance of making physical activity a lifelong pursuit. In our program the students will be introduced to cardiovascular, strength training, and flexibility activities, a variety of sports, games and the basic health components.

SLDC Student Leadership Development Corps - JROTC (6/7/8 Grade)

The mission of The Broward Student Leadership Development Corps (SLDC) is to produce better-informed middle school students whose focus is on preparing for their next educational challenge. SLDC's spiraling curriculum enhances classroom learning, participation in extracurricular and social development activities, and developing a healthy lifestyle. A key goal of SLDC is to improve student achievement across the curriculum and to insure that student's transition seamlessly from middle school to high school. The course includes development of basic leadership skills to include leadership principles, values, and attributes. The course also includes an introduction and preparation for the high school Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps – JROTC where “Learning to Lead” and “Learning to Follow Leadership” are emphasized. Students will learn to write and recite the U.S. Army Cadet Creed, learn and perform basic military marching and drill maneuvers, and engage in physical training. The course entails Platoon Team Building Activities on Tuesdays, Physical Training and Exercise on Wednesdays, and Military Drill on Thursdays. Also included is a study of the U.S. Constitution, Bill of Rights, responsibilities of U.S. citizens, and the federal justice system. Students will learn to publicly speak on various topics related to discipline, and respect.

Tween Topics (6 Grade)

Tween Topics is a course designed to develop and build character education by exposing students to decision-making, interpersonal communication and self- advocacy skills. The course addresses many aspects of a student's social, emotional, and school success in middle school, and throughout their lives. Through classroom instruction, role-playing and skill building activities, students develop personal responsibility and respect for others. The course includes topics of bullying, cyber safety, personal integrity, healthy living, and addresses skills students need to deal with the increasing complexity and responsibility in their lives.

Environmental Science (7/8 Grade)

The Environmental Science course is a middle school full year class in which students engage with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world. The course requires that students identify and analyze natural and human-made environmental problems while evaluating the relative risks to the environment and humanity associated with these problems ultimately examining alternative solutions for resolving or preventing them. Environmental science is cross curricular, embracing topics from geology, biology, environmental studies, environmental science, chemistry, and geography. Students get a hands on opportunity to grow their own vegetables and flowers in the school hydroponics garden to fulfill the laboratory requirement of the course.

Foundations of Robotics (6 Grade)

This course provides students with a foundation in content and skills associated with robotics and automation, including artificial intelligence, electronics, physics, and principles of engineering. Students will utilize critical thinking skills and analyzation techniques. Students will work collaboratively in hands-on teams to design, build and program a working robot. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to showcase their creations at various competitions within the community and at the District level.

CS Discoveries (8 Grade)

*High School Credit

Computer Science Discoveries teaches the fundamentals of computer science. Within the course you will learn computer programming skills including how to write and read a language that communicates with machines. Students will build their own apps, websites, games and physical computing devices. Additional topics covered include coding, CSS/html, data collection and more.

Journalism I (8 Grade)

*High School Credit/ Adobe InDesign Certification

The purpose of this is to prepare students for employment as writers and editors. This program provides a medium whereby the student will be given the opportunity for practical hands-on experiences that incorporate academic skills into a real life situation. The program familiarizes individuals with creative writing, script writing, graphic communications, desktop publishing, television production, photojournalism, and investigative reporting. A student-driven school newspaper will be created and distributed.

Independent Studies (7/8 Grade)

This class provides a full period for students to work independently on various assignments as well as receive academic assistance from a teacher as needed. Computer access is readily available as well as monitored.