



Westglades Middle School

2024 - 2025

Elective Course Offerings Guide

Grades 6 – 8

Mr. Matthew Bianchi, Principal

Principal's Message

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to our 2024-2025 Elective Course Offerings Guide. This document will assist you in selecting your electives 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.

Get involved! **Students** will benefit by joining our many extracurricular activities. This is a fantastic 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 Organization, and School Advisory Forum (SAF). Faculty, staff, and administration are looking forward to a rewarding 2024 - 2025 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.

Have a fun and successful 2024-2025 school year!

Respectfully,

Matthew Bianchi
Principal
Westglades Middle School



LEADERSHIP TEAM

ADMINISTRATION

MATTHEW BIANCHI, PRINCIPAL

GEORGETTE HAMM, 6TH GRADE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

SHARI SCHWARTZ, 7TH GRADE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

JON LAROSA, 8TH GRADE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

TAKEACEA MITCHELL – 6TH GRADE COUNSELOR

SUZANNE DESROSIERS, GUIDANCE DIRECTOR, 7TH GRADE COUNSELOR

RODY LEONARDO-BAEZ - 8TH GRADE COUNSELOR

WMS ELECTIVE COURSE OFFERINGS

We believe 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 enhance their present skills and abilities and be better prepared for success in the next grade and future endeavors. Course descriptions are listed alphabetically and are as follows:

Advanced IT Honors (8 Grade) – 9007610M *High School Credit

Must have taken the year 6 and 7 pre-requisite courses

This course is designed to introduce an in depth look into information technology concepts and careers as well as the impact information technology has on the world, people, and industry and basic web design concepts. The content includes information technology career research; operating systems and software applications; electronic communications including e-mail and Internet services; basic HTML, DHTML, and XML web commands and design; emerging technologies, and Web page design.

Art I (7/8 Grade) – 01010100 2D Studio Art I

Art I is designed to help improve art skills such as drawing, collage, tempera painting, digital painting, copic marker, watercolor, and printmaking. Students will design artwork using a variety of media and techniques, develop students' creativity, self-expression, Elements of Art and Principles of Art. The content should include, but not be limited to the following-two-dimensional media, digital painting and/or imagery and visual language, critical thinking and analysis, historical and cultural perspectives, career opportunities.

Art II (8 Grade)

Art II is a continuation of Art I where we expand into the techniques of two dimensional and three-dimensional works of art. Production activities may include drawing, ceramics, acrylic painting, copic marker, sculpture, print making, and digital painting. Art I in 7th grade is a prerequisite for this course.

Band 1 (1st Year Band Students – 6/7/8 Grade) - 13020000

This course enables 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 (2nd/3rd Year Band Students – 7/8 Grade)

This course enables students to develop intermediate level to advanced 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 requires students to participate in extra rehearsals and performances beyond the school day. Additional costs may be assessed for various enrichment activities.

Band IV (3rd Year Band Students – 8 Grade) *High School Credit

This course enables students to develop high school-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 requires students to participate in extra rehearsals and performances beyond the school day. Additional costs may be assessed for various enrichment activities.

Beginning Art (6 Grade) – 01010050 Exploring 2D Art

This course's purpose is to introduce creative arts. Students will learn about the basic elements of art and improve their creativity and self-expression. Students will be introduced to color theory, art history, and visual observation skills. A variety of media will be utilized such as colored pencils, pastels, charcoal, watercolors, mixed media, etc.

**Business Finance Technology (8 Grade) Digital Info. Tech 8207310M *High School Credit
*Must have taken the year 6 and 7 pre-requisite courses***

The Business Finance Technology high school credit course is designed to provide an overview of current business, finance, information systems and trends; to introduce students to the foundations required for today's business environments. The program enables students to develop technological and entrepreneurial skills by starting and managing business ventures. The course will also engage the student in fun and exciting competitions that build 21st century skills in business, communication, and technology. Emphasis is placed on developing proficiency with computer applications, so that they may be used as communication tools for enhancing personal and workplace proficiency in an information-based society. The students will also complete an 18-week Microsoft program as part of the class. Certification in MTA-Introduction to Programming and CSS will be awarded upon successfully passing the Microsoft certification exam.

Business & Entrepreneurship (7 Grade) – 85404000 FUND OF FINANCE***Must have taken the year 6 pre-requisite course***

This course is to help students make informed decisions about their future academic and occupational goals and to provide information about careers in the Finance career cluster. Fundamentals of Finance provides students with opportunities to become familiar with related careers and develop fundamental knowledge and skills in general economic systems, financial securities, banking concepts, credit, and consumer lending in the United States. Instruction in information systems and related electronic skills and software applications are also included. Instruction and learning activities are provided in a laboratory setting using hands-on experiences with the equipment, materials, and technology appropriate to the course content and in accordance with current practices. As a part of this course, students will be offered the opportunity to earn Microsoft PowerPoint and Excel certification.

Chorus (6/7/8 Grade) - 13030000

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 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, extend, and assess learning in the classroom.

Coding Fundamentals (7 Grade) – 90092000

Must have taken the year 6 pre-requisite course

This course is designed to teach users how to protect their personally identifiable information, data, and digital identity. It covers digital communication and collaboration while explaining their appropriate etiquette standards. Students will learn how to search for, legally use, and properly cite online content. The course goes over basic technology concepts like device and browser settings, cloud computing, processing devices, and content creation. As well as explore ways to create content like videos, tables, and flowcharts.

Competitive Mathematics (6/7/8 Grade) – 1700000D Research I

This class offers opportunities for students willing to train for math counts competitions and future math Olympiads. The everyday curriculum will provide challenges beyond the middle school mathematics taught in a core mathematics classroom. The key components of this course emphasize strategic thinking, problem-solving and communication skills to aid in the development of a 21st century learner. Students will participate in SAT math preparation, mathematical project-based learning and more.

Computer Applications & Business Technology (6 Grade) – 82005200 CPTR APPL BUS I

Students in this exploratory foundation course will engage in business, engineering, and robotic programming coursework. Utilizing a Virtual Enterprises curriculum, students will participate in various web-based activities that aid in the development of 21st century technology and business skills. Students will explore robotic programming utilizing fun, block-based programming languages like StarLogo Nova, Code.org and Scratch. Engineering concepts are introduced via hands-on building and construction activities. As part of this course, students will be offered the chance to earn IC3 digital literacy certification. This course provides a solid foundation for the Finance, Pre-engineering, and Robotics/CS academies (Career and Technical Education pathways offered in 7th and 8th grade).

Computer Science Discovery in Society (7/8 Grade) – 90096000 DIGITAL DISCOVERIES

This is an introductory course designed to help students explore AI and its far-reaching societal impacts on our world. The course is designed around engaging activities and learning units that integrate foundational AI concepts and real-world applications with ethical design and responsible use, as students explore how these technologies can help solve problems and improve life for themselves and their communities. Across six units and three Block Projects, students will investigate the broad implications of AI technology such as targeted advertising, facial and voice recognition, self-driving cars, and neural networks. Through a combination of group activities, individual explorations, and end-of module deep dive projects, students will build familiarity with AI technology and the current state of machine learning. Students will close the course with a look into the future of AI and discuss the implications of AI technology for our society and our world.

Creative Writing (6/7/8)- 1700000L- Research 1

This course will be a workshop style class with a focus on multiple forms of expressive writing. Students will be introduced to several styles of poetry and prose. In addition to exploring literary writing styles and authors, students will also have the opportunity to use art and music as a catalyst to create. Throughout this course, original thought and expression will be emphasized, and students will delve into strategies to avoid writer's block and uncover creative channels to form innovative ideas for writing. As it is a workshop class, peer review, sharing ideas, and independent pacing/time management will be an essential element of this course.

Introduction to Debate (6 Grade) – 10070000 Speech-Debate I

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.

Musical Theater & Production (6/7/8 Grade) – 04002000 Musical Theat I

This course's purpose is for those interested in being a part of theatrical musical productions, either through performance or technical theatre. In addition to theatre productions, students might also be a part of different showcase nights. All cast and crew will be derived from this class, and every student will receive an assignment for the shows. Possible and probable areas of study will include light design, set design/construction, sound design/implementation, performance theory, text analysis, voice and movement, make-up design and application, publicity and public relations endeavors, community outreach programs, etc. This class will include after school components (i.e. rehearsals, performances, competitions etc.).

Orchestra I (1st Year Orchestra Students – 6/7/8 Grade) - 13020400

This course enables students to develop fundamental skills on string 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 musician's connections between music and other subject areas, instrument care and maintenance responsible participation in music activities. This course requires students to participate in extra rehearsals and performances beyond the school day. Additional costs may be assessed for various enrichment activities.

Orchestra II and III (2nd/3rd Year Orchestra Students)

This course enables students to develop intermediate to advanced string instrument skills 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 musician's connections between music and other subjects, instrument care and maintenance responsible participation in music activities. This course requires students to participate in extra rehearsals and performances beyond the school day. Additional costs may be assessed for various enrichment activities.

Drama 1 (6/7/8 Grade) – 04000000 Theatre I

This course enables students to develop fundamental knowledge and skills in 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.

Independent Studies (7/8 Grade) – 1700000S Research I

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

Peer Counseling I and II (7/8 Grade) – 14000000 and 14000100

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, peer counselors provide various 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 (6/7/8 Grade) – 15080600/15080700/1508070A

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, students will be introduced to cardiovascular, strength training, and flexibility activities, a variety of sports, games and basic health components. Westglades PE follows the State Standards, 6th grade: Components of Fitness, Educational Dance and Gymnastics, 7th grade: Understand basic components of team sports, and 8th Grade: Identify and understand basic rules for alternative and or extreme sports. All three-grade students apply technology to develop, improve and monitor individual fitness.

Spanish Speakers Beginning– (6TH GRADE DUAL LANGUAGE STUDENTS ONLY) 0709000D

This course will help students develop, maintain, and enhance proficiency in Spanish by reinforcing and acquiring skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. This course focuses on vocabulary, reading comprehension, writing and oral expression skills and grammar concepts. In addition, culture, connections, comparisons, and communities are included in this one-year course. Students will master their language skills across the three communicative modes of communication (interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational).

Spanish 1 (7/8 Grade) – 0708340M *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 on their FSA Reading scores.

Spanish Speakers 1 (7/8 Grade) - 0709300M 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.

Spanish 2 (8 Grade) – 0708350M *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 Standards.

Speech I (7 Grade) – 1007300M *High School Credit

This course introduces students to competitive speech events 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 various means to show their knowledge and understanding of the content such as interactive activities, group and individual projects, and 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) – 1007330M *High School Credit

This course's objective is to increase students' understanding of argument, critical thinking, and public speaking through many current event-related debates, 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 various means to show their knowledge and understanding of course content. A foundation for effective argumentation and advocacy will be built by participating in mock debates and 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** to attend competitive debate tournaments.

Tween Topics (6 Grade) – 1700000A Research I

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.