

SCHOOL YEAR 2024-2025

8TH GRADE RAIDERS ELECTIVE DESCRIPTIONS

Studio Art 1: This course is designed for the student wishing to continue in Art Studies in High School / Art School. Students are **required** to compete in county, state and national competitions and complete a school mural. Students are required to provide a portfolio for review. **Mrs. McKinstry's signature is required. This is a High School Credit course (not an Honors course) and the grade achieved will affect the student's High School GPA.** A High School Course Agreement form will be signed by the student and parent/guardian the first week of school.

Band Beginning: Students who have little or no experience. Students will choose instruments with the aid of the band director at the beginning of the year. They will participate in school concerts/events and may perform at district/state levels. Thirty minutes a day of home practice is expected. There will be a limited amount of school instruments available for rent.

Band Advanced: Students who have taken Band Beginning and want to continue in Band. **Mr. Nista will decide what level the student will be in and if new to the school, an audition will be required.**

Band 2nd Instrument: Students who already play an instrument and want to take a 2nd instrument. The student will have **2 band classes.**

Chorus Beginning: Students will learn the fundamentals of music, sing a variety of repertoire, and learn how to read music. They will perform in school concerts/events and may perform at district/state levels.

Chorus Advanced: Students who have taken Chorus previously and wish to continue in Chorus. **Ms. Jock's will decide what level the student will be in and if new to the school, an audition will be required.**

Coding 1st Year (Fundamentals): This 1st year course of coding is to introduce the student to computer science, problem solving, programming, and data while inspiring students to build their own websites, apps, games, and physical computing devices.

Coding 2nd & 3rd Year (Digital Discov): This course is for students who are in their 2nd & 3rd year of coding, students must have previously taken Coding Fundamentals with a passing grade and have Mrs. Mejia's approval to enroll in this elective. **Ms. Mejia's signature on course card required.**

Culinary Careers For 8th Graders: Students will explore culinary as a career choice, focusing on food safety, menus, and food preparation.

Dance 1 First Year: During this yearlong course students will learn choreography as well as create dance phrases that tell a story, this will add an element of interest and depth to the piece.

Dance 2: For students who have taken Dance 1 and wish to continue in Dance.

Debate 1 LH: Students will be required to achieve 25 NSDA points by participating in monthly debates (held from 1pm until 8pm) and mentor 6th grade students. **This is a High School Credit course (Local Honors course) and the grade achieved will affect the student's High School GPA.** A High School Course Agreement form will be signed by the student and parent/guardian the first week of school.

Journalism For 8th graders: Students will work collaboratively to create segments, host, film, and plan the RMS Morning Show. Independent projects and group assignments are part of the broadcasting-journalism aims at producing the yearbook and morning show. Students are expected to meet deadlines and attend to the details of both productions.

Orchestra Beginning & Advanced: Students who have interest playing “string” instruments (violins, violas, cellos). They will participate in school concerts/events and may perform at district/state levels. Thirty minutes a day of home practice is expected. There will be a limited amount of school instruments available for rent.

Peer Counseling: Peer counselors act as conflict mediators, peer tutors, and will work with students individually and in groups. They will provide classroom presentations on teen issues such as substance abuse prevention and other projects. Any student interested will need to have an interview with the Peer Counselor teacher prior to being placed in the course.

Physical Education: Students will be provided a foundation of knowledge, skills, and values necessary for the development of a physically active lifestyle through fitness activities and team sports.

Robotics / Stem: This course focuses on robotics and the engineering process. Students will design, build, and program robots which will allow them to experience the engineering process firsthand. They will also be exposed to STEAM career fields through research and mentorship opportunities. The students will be able to compete in bridge building, rocketry, and design competitions.

Spanish 1: The student will engage in speaking, reading, listening, and writing activities to gain proficiency in the Spanish language. **This is a High School Credit course and the grade achieved will affect the High School Academic Core GPA.** A High School Course Agreement form will be signed by the student and parent/guardian the first week of school.

Spanish 2: Students taking this course must have completed course 0708340M Spanish 1 with proficiency. Students will continue with growing their knowledge of the Spanish language along with learning it’s culture. **This is a High School Credit course (not an Honors course) and the grade achieved will affect their High School Academic Core GPA.** A High School Course Agreement form will be signed by the student and parent/guardian the first week of school.

Theatre 1: Students will role-play, improvise, and work in groups. They may participate at district and state levels. They may take this course more than once.

Theatre 2: Students will learn the aspects of performance and production. The focus of this class is to learn the skills necessary to be on stage. They will be required to participate in competitions & productions. **An audition is required to enter the course and Mr. Morgan’s signature on course card required.**