



Wood River Middle School

8th Grade Elective Options

The following courses will be offered to our 8th grade students during the 2023-2024 school year. The final schedule of classes will be determined by board approval and the number of students interested in each. Unless otherwise noted, these classes will run for one trimester.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

PE/Health

This class is a comprehensive program with an emphasis on health-related fitness, team and individual sports.

THE ARTS

Concert Band*

This yearlong course is available to all students who are interested in pursuing the study of music through the use of a band instrument. This course requires two or three evening performances and a spring festival, as well as practice time. ***Activity Card Required**

Concert Orchestra*

This yearlong class is designed for students who have had **one year of WRMS Orchestra** and already have a good facility on their instruments and some experience performing. Students will read and learn a wide variety of diverse, interesting and challenging music. This class requires two or three evening performances, as well as practice time. ***Activity Card Required**

Concert Choir*

Students will sing and learn music fundamentals. There will be required evening concerts and at least one out-of-town music festival, as well as various opportunities to perform within the community. Students are encouraged to take this course yearlong. ***Activity Card Required**

Studio Art 8

In this visual arts class students will practice both thinking and working like artists through the creation of theme based and self-directed work. Students will be exposed to a variety of different art making materials and techniques. Media explorations, mini-lessons, and teacher demonstrations will develop the technical drawing, painting, and sculptural skills students need to feel confident making informed decisions about their personal art making process. This course is designed to boost critical thinking, inspire creativity, and develop communication skills through the use of the Artistic Thinking Process.

Advanced Studio Art

This two-trimester course is available to students who have completed Studio Art 6 and Studio Art 7 (students not meeting this requirement can meet with Miss O'Brien to request admittance). An advanced art student is highly motivated and generally has a consistent art practice outside of school. Students will expand on previously learned art skills and techniques while focusing on nine overarching subject matters. The Nine: the object, architecture, landscape, nature, the portrait, the figure, non-representational, imagination, and conceptual will serve as a framework for the exploration of themes within highly individualized works of art.

Crafts & Textiles

In this class, students engage in multiple crafts and basic baking skills. The course begins with beginning hand sewing skills which includes making pillows, polar fleece hats, and ugly monsters, softballs and footballs. From there we explore crocheting, which results in the making of hot pads, blankets and hats. The final craft will conclude with basket weaving. In the cooking unit of the class, we will learn about kitchen safety, food borne illnesses, and nutrition as well as basic baking skills. Baking projects will consist of multiple yummy cookie recipes, muffins, breads, and finally pizza.

Drama 3

In this class, students will create monologues and focus on the audition process as well as pre-production, production and post-production procedures. Students will study and incorporate the elements of performing arts such as setting, character analysis, and plot/theme development. In addition, students will explore acting, set building, and costumery as they bring stories to life in this hands-on, performance-based class.



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TECHNOLOGY

Robotics

This class provides an in-depth application of the technology cycle to solve engineering-based problems. This is a hands-on, lab-based class in which students will be applying advanced engineering concepts and principles to robotics. Students in the class will have the option to compete in regional and national VEX Robotics competitions held throughout the state of Idaho. A class robotics competition will be the culminating project for this class.

Engineering 3

This class will focus on the engineering design process. Projects include: electronics and electrical design, laser manufacturer, 3D Printing, sustainable/renewable energy, and 21st century manufacturing technology. Students will explore technical drawing, computer aided drawing (CAD), and 3D Solid Modeling. The safe and appropriate use of tools and machines is stressed throughout the curriculum.

Yearbook Design & Photography

Picture the possibilities! Do you enjoy designing? This one-semester class will produce our school yearbook and video yearbook. Students learn about photography, videography, page layout, interviewing, caption writing, and graphic design techniques. In addition, students will design the cover and learn important life skills such as organization, meeting deadlines, and working individually and with a team.

Picture Perfect: Photography & Videography

Lights, camera, action! Do you enjoy photography and videography? In this class, students will explore and apply design techniques while taking photos, making movies and telling a visual story from writing scripts, to short and fun camera shooting techniques. Students will have hands-on experience with MAC computers, movie and photo editing software, green screen, and digital cameras to produce a variety of projects including the WRMS news.

"SO"cial "ME"dia: Internet & Web 2.0 Tools

In this project-based class students will expand their 21st century computer and keyboarding skills by choosing projects and topics that interest them. Students may choose to create websites, movies, WRMS news, newsletters, or other Web 2.0 projects. This class will provide students with knowledge of Web ethics, copyright and fair use, and digital citizenship. Students will apply the design cycle to gather, analyze information, and design their projects. Students will also get hands-on experience with digital forms of engagement including Google Drive and will learn how to create a positive digital footprint while using a wide range of "SO"cial "ME"dia tools.

Leadership and Design

Are you motivated to make your school and community better places for everyone? Learn vital leadership skills and improve our community through service as you work with teams to plan dances, pancake feeds, talent shows, fundraisers and more! The process of design is emphasized along with a social and emotional curriculum that helps students develop their unique talents, strengths, and teamwork skills. 15+ hours of community service are required while enrolled in this class. **Prerequisites: 3.25 GPA and teacher signature. Students taking this one-trimester course should be identified GATE students or show strong leadership potential.**

GATE Guided Project Design

Wish you could have more control over what you learn or the projects you do? With teacher guidance, students design learning projects tailored to their personal interests and talent areas that will provide them with rigor, challenge, and fun! The Engineering Design Process will be incorporated into designing and carrying out these small-group and/or independent student-designed learning projects.

Prerequisites: GATE Teacher or Classroom Teacher Signature. This one-trimester course is designed for GATE students or those students who are highly motivated strong independent learners.