

Elective Course Descriptions

****Please note that some course may require additional fees or supplies.**

Advanced Athletics – Soccer (7th-8th Grade): Students selected for this class will go through off-season conditioning training for strength, agility, and cardiovascular fitness. Students will also practice in-season drills and games to sharpen their skills. Students must have a physical done for participation. Enrollment in this class does not guarantee a roster spot on the soccer team.

Aero Science - Intro to Engineering (6th Grade): This is an introductory hands-on course that focuses on engineering and computer coding. Students will be part of teams that design, build, and program various projects. Some of the projects completed include spaghetti towers, mousetrap cars, stomp rockets, and basic computer code.

Aero Science - Computer Programming (7th Grade): This is a hands-on course that focuses on learning computer programming and online game creation. Along with learning the characteristics of sensors, motors, and control strategies for autonomous robots. Students will be part of teams that build and program robots, create video games, and write and debug computer code using JavaScript.

All About Numbers (6th Grade):

America at War (8th Grade): This is a survey course of military history and the interaction between society and military institutions, technology and techniques, from 1917 to the present. Students will study the interrelationships of warfare, technology, and society in American history, focusing on WWI, WWII, Korean War, Vietnam War, Persian Gulf War, and the Iraq War.

Art (6th-8th Grade): Students will have the opportunity to learn, recognize, and understand the elements and principles of art, improve their observational and creative skills, experience a wide variety of art techniques from drawing, painting, and printmaking/sculpting, appreciate various artistic styles, cultures, and historical periods, and to develop the ability to evaluate personal artwork and the art of others. Art is available for beginning and advanced levels for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. Advanced 8th can receive high school credit. Teacher approval is required for advanced art.

Athletics (7th-8th Grade): This is a class for 7th and 8th grade students who want to experience a higher level of workouts than a normal physical education class. This class will improve a student's overall physical fitness level by working on strength training, core muscle toning and cardio vascular endurance. This class is an invitation only

class and students must be asked by their respective coaches to join the class.

AVID (6th-7th Grade): This is a college readiness class designed to help students in the middle prepare for and succeed in colleges and universities. Students enrolled in this class will learn note-taking strategies, test taking strategies, receive tutoring, visit a college campus, and more.

Band (6th-8th Grade): For students interested in learning to play a wind instrument, including Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Bassoon, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba, and Percussion. No experience necessary! Beginning band is for students who have no and experience while intermediate and advanced are for students who have at least one year of experience on their instrument. Audition is required for experienced students. Students enrolled in this elective will learn to read music, perform in concerts and competitions, and have fun going on field trips.

Band, Jazz (6th-8th Grade): Students will explore music in the jazz genre including Latin, Swing, Funk, Ballads, Bossa Nova, Shuffle, Big Band, etc. Jazz Band is a performance heavy ensemble, therefore, experienced players only. Audition required.

Books before Movies (7th-8th Grade): Did the movie come first, or did the book come first? We will select books that were made into movies and discuss the differences between the two. This elective will be a great opportunity for students to discuss how and why things are changed when translating a book to film. Students will also be encouraged to suggest titles.

Book and Nook (6th Grade): Students who just want to read. Students will have an opportunity to relax and enjoy reading their own novels in a comfy reading environment. We will provide soft instrumental music, comfy cushions, and other cozy reading nook areas for them to enjoy. Happy Reading!

Chess (6th Grade): Chess is a game of logic and reasoning which can be very competitive. In this course we will focus on building chess skills through learning to record games, developing opening sequences, tactics training, and end game strategy. If you have played chess in the past and want to learn more come join the fun.

Chinese (6th-8th Grade): Students are introduced to the Chinese language and culture. Students will learn Pinyin

and beginning words. Lessons will involve the written and spoken word.

Choir, Beginning (Cantare) (6th Grade): Boys' and Girls' Cantare, which literally means "to sing" in Italian, is available to all 6th grade students. Students will perfect the fundamental skills of good singing through various exercises and will learn how to breathe, when to breathe, and how to interpret the director's cues. Students will spend time each day learning to identify basic musical notation and then apply those skills as they sing and learn new music throughout the year. Students will also explore healthy placement of the voice and singing in two-part harmony. All Cantare members will take a sight-reading test at the end of each semester.

Choir, Intermediate (Chorus) (7th-8th Grade): Men's and Women's Chorus are open to both experienced and inexperienced 7th-8th graders who pass a brief vocal assessment in the spring semester of the previous year. In Chorus, students will work to strengthen their sight reading skills and overall understanding of music theory. Solid intonation, rhythmic accuracy, and emotive interpretation of musical selections will be the focal point for the year. 7th Grade Chorus members have the opportunity to audition for Men's Chorale or Women's Chorale at the end of the spring semester. Students may also continue in Chorus should they not qualify for Chorale. All Chorus members will take a sight reading test at the end of each semester.

Choir, Advanced (Chorale) (7th-8th Grade): Men's and Women's Chorale are the premier choral ensembles at Pershing and consist of 7th and 8th grade singers who audition in the spring of the previous school year. Members of Chorale are strong singers, confident sight readers, and experienced ensemble members who represent the Pershing Choral Department at the annual UIL Concert and Sight Reading Assessment in the spring. Students need to remain academically eligible for various festival and trips.

Clash Royale (6th-8th Grade): Clash Royale is a free mobile strategy-based video game. The game combines elements from collectible card games and tower defense to enable a multiplayer online battle. In Clash Royale, players are ranked by their level, trophies, and/or arena. Players form alliances and "clans" to help each other grow, strategize, and compete against other clans. This class will focus on strategy and math behind the game. A major component to Royale is probability, the more you understand the math, the faster you can grow, and higher you can reach in the worlds rating. This class will require the student to have a mobile device and data plan that can support the Clash Royale game.

Concepts of Engineering (8th Grade): This course focuses on various forms of engineering and computer programming. Several of the projects that students will complete include: balsawood bridges, mousetrap cars, water rockets, and online game creations. Students will also learn to write and debug computer code using JavaScript. This class is a high school credit course for 8th grade students only.

Crafts (7th Grade): Students will design, plan, and create various crafts throughout the semester using provided materials. Students will be encouraged to research and suggest projects and proper techniques with guidance from the teacher. This class is intended to provide a space for students to explore and be creating without the constraints of a traditional art class.

Creative Writing (6th-8th Grade): Students will explore writing by learning to create imaginatively constructed fiction and poetry. They will also read and critique fiction and poetry by published writers.

Dance, Beginner (6th-8th Grade): This course emphasizes the various genres of dance technique and includes in-class and on-campus performances. Audition required.

Dance, Intermediate (6th-8th Grade): This course emphasizes the various genres of dance technique and includes in-class and on-campus performances. In addition, students will begin to learn student choreography. Audition required.

Dance, Advanced (6th-8th Grade): This course focuses on various dance techniques, student choreography, student mentoring, and advanced level projects. Audition required.

Dance, Men's (6th-8th Grade): This course is for male dancers and will focus on various dance techniques for men. Audition required.

Dance Company (7th-8th Grade): This course is for 7th and 8th grade students that have auditioned. Students in this course will perform throughout Houston as student representatives. Dance Company will focus on stage performance and competitions.

Debate, Beginning (6th-7th Grade): Students will learn the basics of debate and choose topics in current events, research both sides, and work with a team to prepare arguments for formal debates.

Debate (8th Grade): Students will choose controversial topics in current events, research both sides, and work with a team to prepare arguments for formal debates. The focus will be on critical thinking, active listening, and respectful dialogue.

Economics 101 (6th Grade): Consider an elective course that will engage students to seek a better understanding of how communities and economics relate to their everyday lives and their future. Using creating presentations, guest speakers, games, and visual effects, students will learn about a variety of topics, including the free enterprise system, taxes, financial institutions, bank accounts, credit cards, etc.

Environmental Science (7th-8th Grade): Air pollution, water pollution, sustainability, global warming, human impact on the environment, and renewable energy are just some of the topics we will explore this year doing hands on labs and computer coding simulations. Students can develop block-code computer models to explore water as a shared resource, ecosystem interactions, or global warming. We will learn about sustaining resources and how to make better choices concerning the environment.

Fantasy Geopolitics (6th-8th Grade): Interact with the news. Become more aware. Develop global competence. Combining fantasy football, geography, economics, history, and sociology, Fantasy Geopolitics has students draft countries from around the world. Teams will earn points based on how many times their drafted countries are mentioned in current news from the New York Times. Students can trade, add, and drop countries. Students become managers of learning as they read the news and adjust their lineups.

Forensic Science (7th-8th Grade): Students in this class will learn about the scientific processes and procedures involved in solving crimes and gain an understanding of concepts such as fingerprinting, DNA analysis, document authentication, and more lab activities by solving mock crimes.

French (6th Grade): This course will introduce students to one of the most beautiful languages in the world. Students will explore all aspects of communication: speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Additionally, students will watch French films, eat French food, and explore the rich history of the French language and culture around the world.

French (7th & 8th Grade): This course is a rigorous academic class that moves at a fast pace. Students who participate in the course as 7th and 8th graders will receive one high-school credit for French at the end of their 8th grade year. Students will focus on all areas of communication: speaking, reading, listening, and writing. Students will use technology both in the classroom and at home. Daily practice will maximize the learning experience. Students will also explore the rich history and cultural diversity associated with the French language.

From Civil War to Civil Rights (6th Grade): Students will take a detailed look at the events that led up to the Civil War and ended up with a movement – Civil Rights. Students will explore some of the major decisions that changed the face of America. Students will watch documentaries, read articles and books that chronicle the key points that led to the movement.

Gardening (6th-8th Grade): Students will work in the Pershing gardens, planting, cultivating, harvesting, and cooking organic vegetables as well as helping with Pershing's Saturday morning Farmer's Market.

Guitar, Beginning (6th-8th Grade): Learn basic music theory, music appreciation, and how to play their guitar in the 1st and 2nd positions. Little to no experience required. Students participate in two concerts.

Guitar, Intermediate: Continue to improve your guitar playing skills. Students will learn how to play their instruments in the 1st through 4th positions, intermediate music theory, and music history. Open to any student who has successfully completed beginning guitar or as at least one year of experience playing the guitar. Students participate in three concerts. Audition required.

Guitar, Advanced: Learn how to play the guitar in the 1st through 5th positions, advanced music theory, and music history. Students perform in four major concerts and participate in U.I.L. Solo/Ensemble competition. Audition required.

Gymnastics (6th-8th Grade): Students will learn the gymnastics safety rules, terminology, and the following skills: various rolls, handstands, cartwheels, back bends, and kick-overs on the mats. Students will also work on the vaults, rings, parallel bars, and uneven bars.

Hands-on Thinking Skills (6th Grade): Students will use hands-on thinking skills to design, create, and play games and/or complete projects.

History through Film (8th Grade): Watch movies, discuss historical themes, and create a project! This course is designed to view movies that are somewhat historically accurate and discuss the film. The fall semester is for World History and the spring is American History. After completion of the film there will be some type of project, including mummifying apples, origami, plaster volcanos, battle maps, sugar masks, and more! Parents will be required to sign a permission slip for you to view the movies.

Homework Central (6th-8th Grade): Designed for independent study and silent reading. Students in Study Lab will have quiet time to complete homework. Students

are expected to have enough work to stay busy the entire period.

Home Economics (6th-8th Grade): This is a beginning foods and nutrition class. Students cook and eat mouth-watering recipes. The focus is on basic concepts of food preparation, measurement and conversions, use and care of equipment and appliances, food planning, and nutrition. Students select recipes, plan meals, cook, and evaluate projects.

Journalism (8th Grade): This is the introductory class to Communications. Students will learn how to conduct an interview, develop quality-questioning techniques, and write in journalistic style. These skills are within specific topic writing areas of journalism: news, feature, sports, and editorial. Students will explore the history of Journalism and also learn all aspects of Communications. Students will create projects based around Photography, Broadcasting and Photoshop. Students will also learn advertising and graphic design. This course is a writing and project based course.

Jr. Model U.N.: (6th Grade): In this class students role play delegates to the United Nations and simulate UN committees. It involves substantial researching, public speaking, debating and writing skills, as well as critical thinking, teamwork, and leadership abilities. 6th grade year long

Mental Math Shortcuts (6th Grade): A few shortcuts is all you need. There is nothing wrong with using a good calculator, but will you always have one with you? It's good to know a few math tricks and techniques. It helps to have the ability to add, subtract, multiply, and calculate sales tax of your purchase before you get to the register to pay. Get a better understanding of what such math is and how it benefits with math reviews and times tests.

Minecraft Explorations (6th-8th Grade): Minecraft is a collaborative game where students actively work in cooperative and competitive ways. In this class students work together to solve problems and challenges. Students will explore digital citizenship to learn ways to communicate with each other in a safe and polite manner. Challenges will include visualization and reading comprehension; where students work collaboratively to recreate scenes from a book. Students will use Minecraft to build skills needed for math competency, such as ratio, proportion, area, perimeter, and volume.

Name That Book (6th-8th Grade): Students will read approximately 35 books, discuss and analyze them. In the spring students participate in a competition of comprehension and literary analysis of the novels read.

Newspaper (7th-8th Grade): This course is designed to give students a basic understanding of Journalism and Newspaper writing techniques. Students will write, edit, and layout six issues of the school newspaper JJP the Middle. Students will learn how to conduct an interview, develop quality-questioning techniques, and write in journalistic style. These skills are within specific topic writing areas of journalism: news, feature, sports, and editorial. The course will require some after school deadlines as well as some out of school time for news coverage. Students will also develop photography skills and Adobe InDesign skills. Requirements: Application, English Teacher recommendation and Interview. Teacher Approval required

Number Sense (7th Grade): Individuals are called upon every day to use their ability to do quick mental calculations to make decisions. We will be developing our mental math skills to solve problems quickly without a calculator or paper. These concepts will also work in your other math classes to up your grades and make your life easier! Concepts covered include, but are not limited to: addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, proportions, algebra, geometry, and number theory.

Orchestra, Beginning (6th-8th Grade): This is an entry level orchestra made up of players with the equivalent of zero to one year of playing or music instruction experience. In this introductory orchestra course, students will be introduced to the basic skills on playing an orchestral string instrument in 1st position, learning from the beginning to read music, the rudiments of music theory and music appreciation through a sequenced methodology. Students participating in this ensemble will begin orchestra by focusing on instrument fundamentals, ensemble skills, reading skills, and rehearsal skills. Students will participate in two mandatory concerts: Winter Concert in December and Spring Concert in May. Audition is required. Purchase or rental of an instrument is required.

Orchestra, Intermediate (6th-8th Grade): Intermediate Orchestra is the second level of orchestra at Pershing Middle School. As the next level up from beginning orchestra, in this class students begin to learn more advanced techniques on their instrument and play music with a higher difficulty. Class participants will review skills and concepts learned in Beginning Orchestra and develop a more advanced skill set of finger patterns, rhythm patterns, and bowing patterns. Basic ensemble skills are taught as well. Also, in this orchestra, students will also participate in two mandatory concerts: Winter Concert in December and Spring Concert in May. Audition is required. Purchase or rental of an instrument is required.

Orchestra, Advanced (6th-8th Grade): Advanced Orchestra is the third level of orchestra at Pershing Middle School. Students must have at least two years of previous orchestra

experience. Class participants will review skills and concepts learned in previous Intermediate Orchestra and develop a more advanced skill set of finger patterns, rhythm patterns, and bowing patterns. Advanced Orchestra participates in the performances scheduled throughout the year, as well as in the non-varsity UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest and other competitions. Correspondingly, in this orchestra, students will participate as well in two mandatory concerts: Winter Concert in December and Spring Concert in May. Audition is required. Purchase or rental of an instrument is required.

Orchestra, Chamber (6th-8th Grade): Chamber Orchestra is the top level of orchestra at Pershing Middle School and its flagship ensemble. This course is designed for high advanced-level players based upon auditions.

Students must have at least two years of previous orchestra experience. This orchestra studies repertoire UIL grade level 2-3 and higher. The Chamber Orchestra participates in the performances scheduled throughout the year, as well as in the varsity UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest and other competitions. Students in this orchestra are encouraged to enter Solo and Ensemble, All-Region Orchestra, and UIL competitions. Skills developed in this course will prepare students for high school orchestra. The orchestra will have opportunities to perform a variety of musical styles at school functions on and off campus. Rehearsals, competitions, and performances will be required before and after school, evenings, or weekends. Similarly, in this orchestra, students will participate as well in two mandatory concerts: Winter Concert in December and Spring Concert in May. Purchase or rental of an instrument is required.

Outdoor Adventures (7th-8th Grade): The Outdoor Adventures course is a hands-on, real-world curriculum that will provide and expose students to a wide range of outdoor activities. Through this course students will learn new outdoor skills. (Archery, Fishing, Survival, Etc.....) Learning new skills can encourage students to do better in school and feel more confident as young adults.

PAL - Peer Assistance and Leadership (8th Grade): This course enables students to use their potential to make a difference in their lives, schools and communities. A versatile course, PAL[®] creates environments in which youth participate in productive pursuits with peers, using decision making, higher order thinking skills, and resiliency building. Students learn to adapt the power of peer pressure to influence others positively, and ultimately, they make a difference in the lives of others! Any student interested in the PAL program must submit an application to Mrs. Harrison. PAL students are chosen through an interview process.

Pershing Power Dancers (7th-8th Grade): 7th and 8th grade dancers that have auditioned will participate in school spirit activities and events. Dance Team will focus on various genres of dance performances and competition.

Photojournalism (7th-8th Grade): This course will help the students become well rounded in the fundamentals of digital photography. Four areas of instruction will be emphasized: How cameras work, how composition works, how lighting works, how to use photo editing software. Students will receive basic instruction, demonstration, and see samples of the desired outcomes, at the beginning of each period. They will be allowed to go outside and shoot assignments, based on what they are learning. Students will also learn the business side of photography, such as, creating a website and marketing. Some writing will be required in the course. Requirements: Digital camera, preferably a DSLR camera

Piano/Keyboarding, Beginning (6th-8th Grade): This is an entry level piano class made up of players with the equivalent of zero to one year of playing or music instruction experience. In this introductory piano course, students will be introduced to the basic skills on piano playing, learning from the beginning to read music, the rudiments of music theory, music appreciation and keyboard technique through a sequenced methodology that facilitates organized, student centered, objective centered-driven lessons. This course is designed for the beginner looking for a truly complete piano course that includes lesson, theory and repertoire. At the completion of this piano course, the student will have learned to play an elementary repertoire and will have gained a thorough understanding of the basic concepts of music. The student will then be ready to begin the intermediate piano class. In this piano class students will participate in two mandatory concerts: Winter Concert in December and Spring Concert in May. Audition is required.

Piano/Keyboarding, Intermediate & Advanced (6th-8th Grade): This class combines in a personalized manner intermediate and advanced students. As the next level up from beginning piano, in this class students begin to learn more advanced keyboard techniques and play a repertoire with a higher difficulty that includes original works from different periods in music history – baroque, classical, romantic, impressionist, twentieth century and contemporary periods. Advanced students must have at least two years of previous piano experience and will learn a more advanced keyboard techniques within a repertoire with a more complex difficulty level that includes original works from different periods in music history – baroque, classical, romantic, impressionist, twentieth and twenty-first century. In this piano class students will participate in

two mandatory concerts: Winter Concert in December and Spring Concert in May. Audition is required.

Principals of Information Technology (8th Grade): Learn computer literacy skills ranging from word processing to presentation software, and enhance reading, writing, computing, communication, and reasoning skills and apply them to the information technology environment. Students will also explore college and career planning within specific career cluster(s), including labor market information, job-seeking skills, and the creation of documents required for employment. High School Credit = .5 hours

Reel to Real (6th Grade): Watch classic movies that you would never watch on your own, and discuss plot, theme, setting, characters and mood, and write movie reviews.

Robotics/STEM (6th Grade): Robotics/STEM Innovations- is a semester course which allows students to engage in hands-on activities, while incorporating Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics knowledge to real world applications. In this course students will learn soldering skills, understand basic printed circuit boards, and the importance of alternative energy sources.

ROPES (6th-7th Grade): This course is a combination of the low and high ropes courses, challenging students to grow at both the team and individual levels through properly sequenced games, initiatives, activities, and elements.

Sewing/Crafts (6th Grade): In this class students will make a variety of handcrafted products such as small t-shirt pillows, seasonal cards, wrapped earbuds, tie-dyed shirts, and more.

Sewing/Knitting (7th-8th Grade): Experiences in clothing management are designed to enhance student's skills, further develop their talents as a consumer, and for a better understanding of the clothing and textile industry's role in the economy. Students will have experiences using basic sewing techniques such as how to sue a pattern and a sewing machine. Exploring seams and construction, use of facings and basic hand stitching techniques, and the use of technology in textiles. Upon completion of the class, students should acquire knowledge and skills needed for constructing projects. Students will also learn the basics of knitting and crocheting. Students will start from scratch and complete a knitted or crocheted item.

Science Fair Project Preparation (8th Grade): This course is designed to help student prepare a project to be entered in the Science and Engineering Fair of Houston. The class will be helpful to those students who are taking IPC or Biology, both of which require a science fair project as part of the curriculum, or to other science students who would like to enter a project in the fair.

Science in the Movies (8th Grade): Watch movies involving scientific principles, discuss the content and resolve the question of "fact or fiction?" Resolution of the question will involve scientific investigations. The movies chosen will coordinate with the 8th grade science curriculum for both the fall and spring semesters.

SOS – Supporting our Struggling Students (7th-8th Grade): Do you enjoy helping others? Similar to peer tutoring, in this elective students will assist other students when they have been out ill or need some additional academic assistance. In addition, the teacher will provide study skills and test taking strategies that will help all students be successful. Students enrolling in the elective must have passed STAAR.

Spanish (6th Grade): The 6th grade Spanish course will introduce students to the basics of the language and culture. Students will study the culture to better understand the Spanish speaking people and their customs.

Spanish (7th Grade): The 7th grade program course will develop the student's Spanish vocabulary and grammar base through oral and written practice. They will examine the culture of the Spanish-speaking world.

Spanish (8th Grade): The 8th grade Spanish program is a HS credit course. This course will focus on developing the four communicative skills in our students: Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing. Students will be able to engage in conversations, provide and obtain information, express feelings and emotions, and exchange opinions.

Speech: (8th Grade): Speech Communications will help students better interact with others. They will use different forms of communication, both verbal and nonverbal. Students will learn to speak effectively in front of an audience, or as part of a group, and also listen effectively in both formal and informal situations. 8th grade semester class

Sports History (7th-8th Grade): Students who take this course will learn about and discuss major events, significant individuals, and general history of major sports in the world. Topics include baseball, basketball, football, and soccer. This class will be tons of fun, with lots of student interaction, fun readings, and videos.

Strength & Conditioning (Girls Only) (7th-8th Grade): This elective is designed for girls looking to prepare themselves for the next level of sports in high school. The course puts an emphasis on muscular strength, endurance, flexibility, cardiovascular fitness and safety. Weight room safety, warm-up/cool-down procedures, lifting techniques and safety, major muscle identification, cardiovascular training, speed and agility training, and individual goal setting are

all important components of this course. Individualized sport specific conditioning will be offered based on student interests. Students will monitor and improve their fitness levels by tracking their weightlifting and fitness activity data on a health app.

Swimming (6th-8th Grade): This class will be the 1st period of the day. Students in this class range from beginning to advance and will participate in learning the different strokes in addition to small activities including fitness walking/running and bodyweight training.

Tablets in the Classroom (6th Grade): This class will be set up for students to utilize tablets to practice reading and math skills digitally. In this age of technology, many students learn best through the use of technology. This class will give students an opportunity for a digital learning experience.

Tech Applications (6th-7th Grade): Develop computer literacy skills (word processing, desktop publishing, presentation software) and other various technology applications.

Technology Troubleshooters (7th-8th Grade): Students who take this course will learn to install, repair, and troubleshoot computers, printers, and other tech devices. Students will perform preventative maintenance and learn techniques for maintaining computer hardware security. Communication skills and professionalism in troubleshooting situations will be taught. Students will also work on a technology how-to book for teachers and students using Google Slides. This course requires an application.

Teen Entrepreneurship (7th-8th Grade): This course will allow students exposure to entrepreneurship and other young people starting their own business and/or exploring their passions. Students will explore the world of teen inventors and their motivations, learn how to become life-long investors, and learn basic economic and business concepts.

Theater (6th-8th Grade): The student will learn theatre terminology and how to be a successful actor. Other subjects covered are improvisation and set design. After completing a beginning class, the student is eligible to audition for an advanced class.

Theater, Technical (6th-8th Grade): This course is an exploration of the duties of stage technicians and their contribution to the total aesthetic effort of a dramatic production. Topics covered will include design research and principles; scene shop organization; painting and construction techniques; equipment use and maintenance; principles and application of sound, lighting, and computer technology; the use of special effects; costume and

makeup considerations and selection; publicity and business management; theater safety; and the function of technical stage personnel in production work. Technical theater will incorporate academic study and hands-on application of knowledge and skills.

Weight-lifting (7th-8th Grade): This course puts an emphasis on muscular strength, endurance, flexibility, and safety. The core lifts in this course include parallel squats, power and hanging cleans, bench press, and incline press. Weight room safety, warm-up/cool-down procedures, lifting technique and safety, major muscle identification, and individual goal setting are all important components of this course. In addition, students will monitor and improve their fitness levels by tracking their weightlifting data on a health app.

The Wonderful World of Harry Potter (6th-8th Grade): Students will explore the world of Harry Potter through both the books and movies. We will compare them, discuss character and plot development, be sorted into Hogwarts houses, and more. Students will need to purchase the books or check out from a library.

Yearbook (6th-8th Grade): This is a course that gives students marketable experience in print media publishing. This course solely works toward the completion and selling of the school yearbook. In class, students compose, construct and edit all elements of layouts. Students will learn graphic design, photography, Photoshop and digital imaging. Out of class time is required. Students must attend events that they are assigned. Students will also participate in marketing campaigns for the yearbook. This course also examines legal and ethical issues of media law and copyright. Writing body copy and captions will also be covered. Students should also have a digital camera. Requirements: Application, Interview, a photography sample. Teacher Approval