

8th Grade Elective Descriptions

Complete your elective choice form at <http://tinyurl.com/pershingelective>

Art Students will have the opportunity to learn, recognize, and understand the elements and principles of art, improve their observational and creative skills and experience a wide variety of art techniques from drawing, painting, and printmaking/sculpting. **Fees and additional supplies required.**

Band 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! Audition is required for experienced students.

Purchase or rental of instrument and fees required.

Choir In Chorus, students will work to strengthen their sight reading skills and overall understanding of music theory. All Chorus members will take a sight reading test at the end of each semester. **Fees and additional supplies required.**

Creative Writing 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 This course emphasizes the various genres of dance technique and includes in- class and on-campus performances. Audition required.

Debate Students will choose controversial topics in current events, research both sides, and work with a team to prepare arguments for formal debates of communication: speaking, reading, listening, and writing. **High School Credit Course**

Graphic Design Students learn to utilize the elements and principles of design, the design process, spatial relationships, typography and imagery as they apply to practical visual solutions for print, logo design, poster design, and digital design applications. Students create examples of professional graphic art .

Guitar: Learn basic music theory, music appreciation, and how to play their guitar in the 1st and 2nd positions. Students participate in two concerts. **Purchase or rental of instrument and fees required.**

Journalism (Semester Course) Students will learn how to conduct an interview, develop quality-questioning techniques, and write in journalistic style. This course is a writing and project based course. **High School Credit Course**

Name That Book 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. **APPLICATION ONLY –**

Complete at <https://tinyurl.com/NTBPershing>

Newspaper 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. Requirements: Application, English Teacher recommendation and Interview. Teacher Approval required **High School Credit Course**

Photojournalism (Semester Course) 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. Requirements: Digital camera, preferably a DSLR camera **High School Credit Course**

Piano 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

Principals of Applied 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. **High School Credit Course**

Principals of Information Technology 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. **High School Credit Course**

Spanish 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. **High School Credit Course**

Speech (Semester Course) 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. **High School Credit Course**

JJP Tech Team Students maintain the laptop carts, fix computers and other equipment doing things necessary to help technology run smoothly. You don't have to know it all. Come and learn to fix the technology we have and use your new skills to help teachers and students here on campus. **APPLICATION ONLY**
Complete at <https://tinyurl.com/JJPTechTeam>

Theater 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. **Fees and additional supplies required.**

Technical Theatre course is an exploration of the duties of stage technicians and their contribution to the total aesthetic effort of a dramatic production.

Yearbook 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. Students should also have a digital camera. Requirements: Application, Interview, a photography sample. Teacher Approval required.