

# Davis Drive Middle School

## 8th Grade Elective Descriptions 2016 - 2017

### YEAR-LONG ELECTIVES (36 WEEKS)

**Intermediate Strings** is designed for students with at least one year of playing experience. Students will improve upon the techniques they have learned in previous orchestra classes. *Students will audition and be placed into either Intermediate or Advanced Strings for 8th Grade.*

**Advanced Strings** is the highest level of Orchestra offered at the middle school level. Students should have at least two years of playing experience, preferably more than two. Students will continue to build on techniques learned in the 7th grade and develop them further. *Students will audition and be placed into either Intermediate or Advanced Strings for 8th Grade.*

**Advanced Band** is comprised of brass, woodwind and percussionists with a minimum of two years experience. Brass and woodwinds are together in one class and percussion is in a separate class. The majority of class time is devoted to rehearsing music to be performed. In addition to preparing concert music to be played with the winds, the percussion class also prepares percussion ensemble literature. The 8th Grade Band performs up to six times per year.

**Advanced Spanish - High School Credit Class** (*Prerequisite: Spanish in 7th grade with a final grade of A or B*) is a year-long course for 8th graders that follows the 7th grade class (mandatory pre-requisite). This course builds on previously learned material and expands on vocabulary topics and grammar. Vocabulary topics covered include food, hobbies, home and family, and shopping. Students are introduced to the irregular verbs *tener* and *ir* as well as regular -er and -ir verbs. Students continue expanding their reading, writing, listening comprehension and speaking skills. Students who successfully complete the 3 semesters of Spanish during seventh and eighth grades and pass the Exit Exam, which will count as 20% of their overall grade, will receive high school credit for Spanish I and advance to Spanish II in high school.

### SEMESTER ELECTIVES (18 WEEKS)

**Computer Skills and Applications** This middle school course is composed of instructional modules designed to allow students to learn the touch method of keyboarding, digital literacy and computer knowledge, and basic word processing and document formatting skills. English language arts and mathematics are reinforced. Work-based learning strategies appropriate for this course include mentorship, service learning, and job shadowing. Apprenticeship and cooperative education are not available for this course. Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) competitive events, community service, and leadership activities provide the opportunity to apply essential standards and workplace readiness skills through authentic experiences.

**Advanced Computer Skills and Applications** (*Prerequisite: Computer Skills and Applications*) This middle school course is composed of instructional modules designed to provide hands-on instruction using software common in the workplace. The software applications include word processing, presentation, spreadsheet, database, and desktop publishing. English language arts and mathematics are reinforced. Work-based learning strategies appropriate for this course include mentorship, service learning, and job shadowing. Apprenticeship and cooperative education are not available for this course. Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) competitive events, community service, and leadership activities provide the opportunity to apply essential standards and workplace readiness skills through authentic experiences.

**Exploring Engineering & Design** This course focuses on applying the design process in the invention or innovation of a new product, process, or system. Through engaging activities and hands-on projects, students focus on understanding how criteria, constraints, processes, and daily life affect designs. Students will focus on how technology allows society to grow, despite negative impacts along the way. Projects and topics will include: technology around you, communicating design, Rube Goldberg machines, innovations of the iPod, oil spills, & transportation.

**Exploring FACS: Family Focus (1st Semester)** is composed of instructional modules designed to explore basic Family and Consumer Sciences foundations and skill sets. The modules included in this course are interpersonal relationships, nutrition and wellness (includes food labs), early child care and interior design. Upon successful completion of the early childcare module, students are eligible to obtain the American Red Cross® Babysitter Certification.

**Exploring FACS: Consumer Focus (2nd Semester)** is composed of instructional modules designed to explore basic Family and Consumer Sciences foundations and skill sets. The modules included in this course are personal finance and resource management, food service and hospitality (includes food labs), and apparel (includes sewing labs). Upon successful completion of the food service module, students are eligible to obtain the NC eFoodhandler™ certification.

**Exploring Career Decisions** focuses on the world of work and the career planning process. Students will analyze their interests and how they influence our career choices, research possible future careers and universities, learn how to write a cover letter and resume, and participate in mock interviews.

**Exploring Business, Marketing, and Entrepreneurship** (*Prerequisite: Advanced Computer Skills and Applications*) This middle school course is designed to explore the nature of business, entrepreneurial skills, and to study related careers in fields such in financial services, information technology, marketing, office systems technology, public relations and promotion, and travel and tourism. Emphasis is on using the computer while studying applications in these careers along with problem solving and thinking skills. This course contributes to the development of a career development plan. English language arts, mathematics, and social studies are reinforced. Work-based learning strategies appropriate for this

course include service learning and job shadowing. Apprenticeship and cooperative education are not available for this course. Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) competitive events, community service, and leadership activities provide the opportunity to apply essential standards and workplace readiness skills through authentic experiences.

**Exploring Economics, Finance and Leadership** This middle school course is designed to explore how economic systems impact business and principles of business and personal finance. Emphasis is on using the computer while studying applications in these areas, along with problem solving and thinking skills. This course contributes to the development of a career development plan. English language arts, mathematics, and social studies are reinforced. Work-based learning strategies appropriate for this course include service learning and job shadowing. Apprenticeship and cooperative education are not available for this course. Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) competitive events, community service, and leadership activities provide the opportunity to apply essential standards and workplace readiness skills through authentic experiences.

**Dance II - Section A** (*Prerequisite: Dance I*) In this course, students will learn intermediate to advanced level choreography in both the Jazz and Modern techniques. Majority of class time will be spent on learning and creating choreography for performances. All students will perform in at least one show.

**Dance II - Section B** (*Prerequisite: Dance I and 4-5 years dance experience*) In this course, students will learn intermediate to advanced level choreography in both the Jazz and Modern techniques. Majority of class time will be spent on learning and creating choreography for performances. All students will perform in at least one show.

**Visual Composition/Advanced Art (1st semester)** (*Prerequisite: Completion of two art courses with an A average*) Students will engage in deep study of the elements and principles of art. Students will continue to develop their technical and artistic skills as they solve problems with their own choice of media.

**Drawing (1st semester)** Students are taught drawing techniques using various media. They work with line, value, and basic perspective. In addition, students will learn to think and write critically about master work as well as their own.

**Painting (2nd semester)** This course is designed for students to explore a variety of media and subject matter. Watercolor, tempera, and acrylic paint will be used. Special attention will be placed on the color wheel, color theory and different painting techniques. It is strongly recommended that students take Drawing before taking Painting.

**Pottery/Sculpture (2nd semester)** This course is designed for students to create a variety of clay projects using the pinch, coil, and slab methods of hand building. Paper and wire sculpture are also covered in this 3-D design class as well as free-standing sculpture, functional ware (bowls, vessels, etc.), and tile design. Art history and critical analysis of master works as well as their own will be completed in this course.