

May 18, 2015

To Parents/Guardians of Sixth Grade Students:

Seventh grade Wheel and Music Courses have changed for the 2015-2016 school year. Students have the opportunity to choose the following music courses: Band, Choir, or Band/Choir. Selecting Band and Choir would require your student to have these classes every other day.

Wheel classes are seven weeks long. During the wheel period, all students are **required** to take Health and Life Skills. In addition, students have the opportunity to rank the following Wheel courses according to preference: Project Lead the Way, Art, Technology Education, Spanish, and French. Students will receive **three** of their choices in addition to Health and Global Connections as each wheel class will be seven weeks long. Descriptions of the preference courses are included below. Please note that preferences are not guaranteed.

As our community continues to grow and our enrollment increases, it is imperative that we have accurate course selections so that appropriate staffing decisions may be made. Therefore, please discuss these course options and make your selection after careful consideration. Changes in music scheduling beyond the first five days of the new school year will negatively affect your child's music grade for the first nine weeks of school.

To simplify elective course selection for your child, please select the links below and indicate your child's options no later than Friday, May 22, 2015.

<http://goo.gl/forms/G3vfuFDdSM>

Sincerely,

Mark E. Kurz
Principal



Health-Required

Students will have the opportunity to learn the process of maturity with the development of the human body. They will also learn and understand the side effects of sexual intercourse and sexual activity along with the warning signs of dating violence. The students will also explore the heart and circulatory system and how to stay healthy along with avoiding drugs and alcohol.

Life Skills-Required

The focus of this course will be different from Life Skills in 6th grade. The focus of this course will be three-fold. First, students will begin to explore their interests and possible career pathways by using Naviance, which is a web-based resource database. Second, students will explore the concept of financial literacy by learning about the basics of managing money to help prepare for the future ahead. Third, students will learn the principles of public speaking as a lifelong skill. Students will use Chromebooks as an instructional tool on a regular basis as they access a variety of online resources.

Art

This is mainly a hands-on course. A student could experience an acrylic painting, a clay/glazed project, a mixed media project such as a fabric/ yarn weaving, a “recycled” sculpture, or a scratchboard drawing. Techniques, art history, art criticism will be taught in relationship to the Art Elements and Principles. Choices in the 3 Categories of Art will be encouraged for self-expression!

Technology Education

This is a hands-on course in woodworking and technology. It is designed to instruct students in the areas of building projects, knowledge of woods, and project procedures. Students will construct various projects as well as have the opportunity to create, design and build personal projects of their choice with teacher guidance and close on. Projects include: Corn Hole Boards, CO₂ Cars and other woodworking projects.

Project Lead the Way

Students apply the design process to solve problems and understand the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They work in teams to design a playground and furniture, capturing research and ideas in their engineering notebooks. Using Autodesk design software, students create a virtual image of their designs and produce a portfolio to showcase their innovative solutions.

Spanish

The purpose of this class is to learn more about the Spanish Language and Hispanic Culture you were exposed to in the 6th Grade Foreign Language exploratory class. It is also recommended, that if you are planning on taking Spanish I as an eighth grader that you take this course as well. We will focus on basic Spanish vocabulary, simple conversational Spanish, and Hispanic culture in this class.

French

The purpose of this class is to learn more about the French Language and Francophone Culture you were exposed to in the 6th Grade Foreign Language exploratory class. It is also recommended, that if you are planning on taking French I as an eighth grader that you take this course as well. We will focus on basic French vocabulary, simple conversational French, and Francophone culture in this class.