

Albion Middle School

Elective Course Descriptions, 2023-24 School Year

Visual Arts

2D Art (7-8): This course provides an overview of 2D Visual Arts (drawing, painting, printmaking, graphic design, etc.). Artists taking this course will experiment with a variety of art materials and tools while learning to use the digital design app Procreate, using iPads and Apple Pencils. With an emphasis on studio production, this course is designed to develop higher-level thinking, art related technology skills, art criticism, art history, and aesthetics. This course has a \$20 fee.

3D Art (7-8): This course develops basic skills in the creation of 3D forms and hand-built ceramics. Techniques in armatures, additive and subtractive sculpture, paper arts, papier mache, and basic ceramic process (building, basic glaze, and firing) will be taught. With an emphasis on studio production, this class is designed to develop higher-level thinking skills focused on problem solving. The Elements of Art and Principles of Design will be taught, along with Vocabulary, Art History and Art Criticism. Some art-related technology skills may be included. This course has a \$30 fee.

Studio Art (8): Prerequisite: 2D Art and/or 3D Art or Instructor Approval

This course is designed for students who have already taken both 2D and 3D Art courses. Studio artists will have the opportunity to experiment with both 2D and 3D materials and their projects will be more choice driven. Students will need to be able to apply their knowledge of the Elements of Art and Principles of Design to their work (regardless of media) in order to demonstrate mastery of advanced level design skills and concepts. Ongoing critical analysis through group and individual critiques provide students with opportunities to learn to analyze their own work and their peers' work. Students are expected to also create art work outside of the classroom. This course has a \$30 fee.

Music

Band 1 (6-8): No previous musical experience is required for this course. This is a beginning band course offered for students who want to learn the flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, tuba, saxophone, or percussion instruments. We focus on playing mallet percussion instruments, not touching a drum until January at the earliest. This class will focus on playing their chosen instrument, reading music, and relationships between music and other areas of the core curriculum. Students will need an instrument, method book (provided by school), pencil, reeds (for clarinets, oboe, saxophone, and bassoon), valve oil and slide grease (for trumpets, horn, baritone, tuba), and slide oil (for trombone), and a cleaning rag or swab for their instrument. The larger brass instruments (tuba, baritone, a few trombones) are available to rent from the school based on financial need first, then on a first-come, first-served basis for all remaining instruments. This course has a \$20 fee.

Percussion (6-8): Prerequisite: Instructor Approval

Percussion ensemble (Band 2) is an intermediate to advanced percussion group. Students in this ensemble perform with the symphonic band as well as on their own. Students will perform many times throughout the year both during the school day and at evening events. These students are expected to practice, which may require time after school on the instruments. Students are required to have a mallet bag (a pair of yarn mallets, a pair of rubber mallets, a pair of timpani mallets, and a pair of drumsticks), pencil, and their music. Any sixth grade student wishing to participate in the percussion ensemble must audition for Mrs. Perkins before registering. Auditions will include B flat and E flat major scales, a prepared piece, and sight-reading. The auditions are used to make sure that students are placed within the correct performing group. This course has a \$20 fee.

Symphonic Band (6-8): Prerequisite: Audition/Interview

The symphonic band is the intermediate to advanced level band course focusing on ensemble performance. This course performs frequently during and outside of class time. Each performance is vital to the student's grade. An instrument, method book, and pencil are required for this course. Tuba, euphonium/baritone, French horn, baritone saxophone, oboe, and bassoons are all available to rent from the school for a low fee on a first-come, first-served basis. Students wishing to participate in this class must have participated in school for at least one year, or taken lessons privately. Any sixth grade student wishing to participate in the symphonic band must audition for Mrs. Perkins before registering. The audition will include playing B flat Major and E flat Major scales in one octave, a prepared piece, and sight-reading. The auditions are used to make sure that students are placed within the correct performing group. This course has a \$20 fee.

Orchestra 1 (6-8): No previous musical experience is required for this course. This is a beginning course for students who would like to play the violin, viola, cello, or string bass. This class will focus on playing their chosen instrument, reading music, and relationships between music and other areas of the core curriculum. Students will focus on learning how to play string instruments, read music, and just having a good time learning more about music in our world. Students will need an instrument, method book (provided by the school), pencil, and rosin (for their bow). Students wanting to play the cello or bass may rent the instrument from the school for a very low fee based on financial need first, then on a first-come, first-served basis. This course has a \$20 fee.

Orchestra 2 (6-8): Prerequisite: Audition/Instructor Approval

This is an intermediate to advanced level orchestra course focusing on ensemble performance. This course does perform frequently during and outside of class time, and these performances are an important part of the student's grade. An instrument, method book, pencil, and shoulder rest (for violin and viola) are required for this class. Cellos and basses are available to rent from the school at a low fee on a first-come, first-served basis. Students wishing to participate in this course must have participated in school orchestra for at least one year, or taken lessons privately. Any sixth grade student wishing to participate in Orchestra 2 must audition for Mrs. Perkins before registering. The audition will include playing G Major and D Major scales, a prepared piece, and sight-reading. This course has a \$20 fee.

Choir (7-8): No previous singing experience is required for this course. This semester-long course is open to all students who enjoy singing. In this course students will learn the basic skills of correct vocal production, breathing, posture, and vowel pronunciation. Rehearsals and performances outside of class time are part of the course requirement and constitute a portion of the grade. This course has a \$20 fee.

Concert Choir (7-8): Prerequisite: Instructor Approval

This is a full-year advanced choral group for those with previous musical experience. We will continue learning theory and technique, and will focus on performing challenging and fun choral literature (songs!). Rehearsals and performances outside of class time are part of the course requirement and course grade. These will include performing the National Anthem, District Festival, Honor Choir, and competing (and riding rides) at the Lagoon Festival. This course has a \$20 fee.

Career & Technical Education

STEM Concepts (7-8): This applied engineering course provides students with opportunities to solve real world problems following the engineering design process. This hands-on course will engage students in mechanical, electrical and computer engineering. Students will learn introductory concepts in electric circuits and components, woodworking and manufacturing, computer coding and problem solving and more. Students will analyze their designed solutions for strengths and weaknesses, revise their designs and plan for improvement. Students will also have a chance to practice their written and spoken communication skills as they report their results to peer groups and to 'clients' (the instructor.)

FCS Exploration (7-8): This Family and Consumer Science course provides students with essential life skills by studying nutrition in-depth and providing hands-on cooking experiences and fun, challenging competitions! Students will also have the opportunity to learn the responsibilities and experiences of caring for a child. Other skills taught include dealing with relationships, peer pressure, stress, and communication. Students may choose to take this course in 7th grade, 8th grade, or both! Come join the fun! This course has a \$20 fee.

English Language Arts

Creative Writing 1 (7-8): Once upon a time, there was a course to help students learn how to make the ink on the page come alive! Learn how to create your very own creative writing masterpieces in this class. In this stimulating course, students will practice as many different FUN types of creative writing as possible. Some examples of just a **few** of the fun projects we do are: urban legend, choose-your-own adventure, write your own movie script, and crime scene creative writing. Students will leave at the end of the semester with a brain full of creative writing tools and tricks! Come with your imagination ready, the sky's the limit! Note: This is **not** a repeat of the creative writing portion of the Exploratory Arts wheel that most students take in 6th grade. However, if you liked that class, you'll love this one!

Debate 1 (7-8): Don't you want to be able to win any argument with your parents? Come and learn how in debate! Skills learned in this debate class will help improve your writing, public speaking, research skills, creativity, confidence, and power of persuasion. You'll choose the type of speech or debate you want to specialize in: Policy Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Extemporaneous Speaking, or Oratory speaking. Most of the time spent in debate class is prepping for the tournament by researching, writing, and doing practice debates. Then, you'll have the opportunity to be counted among the best of the best by competing in district-wide debate tournaments (competing in two after-school tournaments is a requirement of the class, but most students love them so much that they go to more than just the required tournaments). Plan on working hard in debate, but also plan on feeling an immense sense of satisfaction when you see all that hard work pay off when you compete at the debate tournaments. Join our debate team and discover your path to fame and glory!

World Language

Spanish 1 (7-8): ¡Hola! Do you want to learn Spanish to travel abroad, communicate with Spanish-speaking friends and family, or be more competitive for jobs in the future? Spanish 1 is an exciting introduction to one of the most useful languages in the world. You will be immersed in Spanish through escape rooms, graphic novels, authentic music, scavenger hunts, activities on Google Maps, and mini telenovela series for learners. Culture will be embedded into the curriculum. By the end of Spanish 1, you will be able to order food in a restaurant, talk about your interests and classes, describe yourself and your family, and possess a strong command of present tense in basic conversations to navigate real-world communication in Spanish. This course has a \$20 fee.

Fundamentals of Spanish 2 (8): Prerequisite: Spanish 1

¿Hablas español? Spanish 2 will take your Spanish to the next level. You will engage in conversations about weekend plans, homes, daily routines, chores, buying clothes, and accepting and declining invitations. You will also begin to speak in the past and future tenses, write at the paragraph level, and connect longer strings of sentences into more unique and personal expressions. In Spanish 2, culture will be integrated through music, clothing, currencies, maps, recipes, holidays, and more as we journey through the beautiful Spanish-speaking world. This course has a \$20 fee.

Miscellaneous Electives

Teacher's Aide/Office Aide (7-8) This is a course that offers students a unique experience working with teachers or office staff. This position provides students an opportunity to interact with their peers as tutors and models. It will also provide students with a sense of the teaching profession as they help teachers and school staff with the various responsibilities involved with the daily operations of the educational setting. Students must sign up directly with individual teachers or with the main office for this class. Teacher or main office signatures are required for enrollment in this class.

Peer Tutoring (7-8): Application required-pick one up from the counseling center

Students in this course work under the supervision of Special Education teachers in assisting students who have special needs or disability conditions. It is designed for individuals who are interested in pursuing a career in fields such as education, sociology, psychology, or social work. Because Peer Tutors are placed in a position of trust, they are expected to be highly responsible and have mature judgment.