



Powdersville Middle

A Tradition of Excellence

2022-2023 8th Grade Related Arts Course Descriptions

Art 8 [1 class period]

Prerequisite: none

Purpose: Art 8 is a visual arts course designed for students to use artists and art history as inspiration for art projects. Students are encouraged to make more personal choices in their artistic creations. This class enables the development of technical skills to create more polished, finished works of art.

***Art 8 Honors [1 class period]**

Prerequisite: approved application

Purpose: Art 8 Honors is a visual arts class that emphasizes studio arts. This class is for art students with an above-average aptitude for the visual arts who plan to continue their art education. An emphasis is placed on the art of critique (both oral and written), critical thinking skills, decision making, and problem-solving. Students will experience more choices in both subject matter and composition. For participation in the class, the student must complete the art application.

***Band 8 [2 class periods]**

Prerequisite: Band 7

Purpose: This is the most advanced band class offered at the middle school level. Students in 8th grade band will build on the concepts they learned in 7th grade band as well as perform a vast repertoire of music in a variety of concerts, including Veterans Day, the fall and spring band concerts, state and local music festivals, elementary school visits, and various local venues. In addition, students will have the opportunity to compete individually in state competitions such as All-County Band, Region Band, All-State Band, and Solo and Ensemble Festival. Course grading will include students' daily participation, practice records (individual recordings), playing & written quizzes, and performance in various seasonal concerts and state/local festivals. 8th grade students are eligible to participate in the Powdersville High School Marching Band per recommendation from the school instructor.

***Chorus 8 [1 class period]**

Prerequisite: none

Purpose: Chorus offers the opportunity to participate in a vocal music program dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in music through performance. Students participate in daily rehearsals and perform in concerts during the school year.

***Chorus 8 - Honors [1 class period]**

Prerequisite: audition required

Purpose: Honors Chorus is a year long chorale ensemble. Students will focus on developing student musicianship through choral music study, experience, and performance. Students will

study a variety of music literature, basic music theory, proper vocal technique, and have performance opportunities.

***Competitive Robotics [2 class periods]**

Prerequisite: approved application

Purpose: Students will design, build, and program robots to compete in regional and state VEX competitions. Students use teamwork and problem solving strategies to navigate step-by-step activities in the Competitive Robotics curriculum. They are required to meet one Saturday during the months of December, January, and February for competition purposes.

Fundamentals of Computing Part 2 [1 class period]

Prerequisite: Fundamentals of Computing Part 1

Purpose: Fundamentals of Computing is designed to introduce students to computer science through an exploration of engaging and accessible topics. Through creativity and innovation, students will use critical thinking and problem-solving skills to implement projects relevant to students' lives. They will create a variety of computing artifacts while collaborating in teams. Students will gain a fundamental understanding of the history and operation of computers, programming, and web design. Students will also be introduced to computing careers and will examine societal and ethical issues of computing. **Upon successful completion of this class, students who earn a passing grade will receive a .5 high school credit. This class is included in GPA calculation.**

Gateway to Technology 8 [1 class period]

Prerequisite: none

Purpose: Gateway to Technology is the middle school program offered by Project Lead the Way (PLTW), a high school engineering program. Gateway to Technology is not a prerequisite for PLTW but does provide a basic engineering foundation. Students will complete a series of nine projects ranging from engineering career brochures to designing their own Rube Goldberg device. Each project is full of hands-on activities that promote teamwork and critical thinking skills utilized by today's engineers.

***Jazz Band 8 [1 class period]**

Co-requisite: Band 8

Purpose: Students must be enrolled in Concert Band to be members of the Jazz Band. This ensemble will train students in the following concepts in conjunction with their concert band training: jazz origin and history, jazz styles including blues, Latin, swing, rock, and funk, solo music improvisation, intermediate music theory, commercial chord symbols, studio production, and recording, and solo and ensemble performance. Course grading will include students' daily participation, practice records (individual recordings), playing & written quizzes, performance in various seasonal concerts, studio recording, and state/local festivals.

Music 8 [1 class period]

Prerequisite: none

Purpose: Music 8 is designed to help the student develop informed listening skills that promote curiosity and understanding of many types of music. This course provides an approach to perceptive listening and an introduction to musical elements, style periods, and historical

context. This course will relate the music of an era to historical events and the art and literature of the time period discussed.

***Orchestra (Strings) 8 [2 class periods]**

Prerequisite: Orchestra 7

Purpose: The orchestra class is open to students who desire to play one of four different stringed instruments: violin, viola, cello, or bass. It is a yearlong class that meets 90 minutes during each grade level's designated related arts time. The student will receive guidance in producing proper tone, pitch, rhythm, posture, dynamics, and performance at different levels. Orchestra is also a class designed to help build self-esteem (achievement), cooperation (playing in an ensemble), and life skills (practice, study, commitment) through the discipline of learning to play an instrument. The 8th grade orchestra has three performances a year, one at Christmas, Concert Performance Assessment in March (field trip), and a spring concert. These are all mandatory and part of the student's grades for the year.

Physical Education/Health 8 [1 class period]

Prerequisite: none

All students will be scheduled for this course by default unless certain scheduling conflicts apply.

Purpose: The Physical Education program allows each student to participate in a comprehensive program consisting of skill development, lead-up games, team sports, individual sports, and physical fitness activities. The students receive instruction in rules, skills, and strategies associated with the different sports and learning experiences involving physical conditioning activities and lifelong physical activities. The program promotes the spirit of cooperation, leadership, fair play, and friendly competition. The Health Program is designed to familiarize students with issues they will encounter during their middle school years. It is designed to provide knowledge and experiences that will enable them to make choices that will positively impact their health. Units covered include stress management, managing mental and emotional health, body systems, physical fitness, sports conditioning, eating responsibly, and more.

***Released Time 8 [2 class periods]**

Prerequisite: Signed consent form

Purpose: Released Time Bible Education class, provided by Christian Learning Centers of the Upstate, Inc., is an off-campus class at a local church. It is a non-credit course designed for students who wish to augment their education with religious and moral instruction. Parent/guardian permission through a signed consent form is required.

***Spanish I [2 class periods]**

Co-requisite: English 1 Honors

Purpose: Spanish I is a yearlong class that teaches the high school Spanish I curriculum. Students who meet grading requirements will receive a foreign language credit and have the opportunity to take Spanish II as a high school freshman. **Upon successful completion of this class, students who pass will receive 1.0 high school credit. This class is included in GPA calculation.**

STEM 8 [1 class period]**Prerequisite: None**

Purpose: STEM 8 introduces students to the four areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Students learn through an interdisciplinary approach that increases awareness, builds knowledge, develops problem-solving skills, and potentially awakens an interest in pursuing a career in STEM.

Theatre 8 [1 class period]*Prerequisite: none**

Purpose: Theatre is an all-encompassing introduction to theatre arts. Students will take their first steps towards understanding the basics of theatre. The curriculum includes the core components of the theatre machine: acting, directing, playwriting, and technical theatre. By understanding the inner workings of these concepts and practices, students will expand their knowledge of theatre history. This class introduces young artists to publicity, the nuance of play production, and a deep well of improvisational exercises and games. This course will provide a strong foundation to continue a pursuit of the arts while enhancing other non-arts skills such as public speaking and the ability to collaborate with others.

WPPL (Digital Literacy Broadcast Class) [1 class period]*Prerequisite: approved application**

Purpose: Students will gain experience in producing the morning school broadcast show. Students learn how to operate a camera and the behind-the-scenes logistics of video production. Students will film and produce short video clips for school events.

Yearbook (Annual) [1 class period]*Prerequisite: approved application**

Purpose: Students learn the process and program to produce pages within the theme for the school annual. Students work throughout the year to produce the pages that will be submitted for the annual publication.

***Denotes specialty course (meaning an application or audition is required) or performing arts course. All other courses are considered exploratory courses.**