

8TH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 2020-2021

ELECTIVES

FRENCH 1B

Length: Full Year

Prerequisite: C or better in French 1A or teacher's approval.

This course will include a review of material covered in 7th grade French. This course is offered to students with no prior classroom experience in French and is an introduction to basic topics. It will expand vocabulary and knowledge of sentence structure and grammatical concepts. Regular and irregular verbs and their conjugations will be introduced. Topics will include all content from 7th grade French as well as classroom objects, food, leisure activities, and places/community. Students will continue to expand their knowledge and appreciation of the culture. Students will need to maintain a C+ in the class and pass the final test with a C or better to receive a high school credit for French 1.

SPANISH 1B

Length: Full Year

Prerequisite: C or better in Spanish 1A or teacher's approval.

This course will include a review of material covered in 7th grade Spanish. It will expand vocabulary and knowledge of sentence structure and grammatical concepts. Regular and irregular verbs and their conjugations will be introduced. Topics will include all content from 7th grade Spanish as well as classroom objects, food, leisure activities, and places/community. Students will continue to expand their knowledge and appreciation of the culture. Students will need to maintain a C+ in the class and pass the final test with a C or better to receive a high school credit for Spanish I.

MANDARIN 1

Length: Full Year

Prerequisite: None

This course is offered to students with no prior classroom experience in Mandarin. Students learn the basics of the Chinese language and continue learning more words and phrases. In Mandarin, not only do you learn how to speak Chinese, but also learn about the Chinese culture, songs, calligraphy and how to write Chinese properly. Students will do some arts and crafts and learn the symbolism of each project.

CHOIR 8

Length: Full Year

Prerequisite: None

Students learn teamwork and cooperation by performing together vocally. Skills they learn include matching pitch, correct posture, as well as understanding basic music reading and theory. They will learn to sing various styles of vocal music such as jazz, pop, and classics in up to 4 parts at a time. Performance opportunities are at school assemblies and concerts (approximately three times per year.)

ADVANCED BAND

Length: Full Year

Prerequisite: Advanced Band is designed for students with two years of band experience. Some students with only one year of experience may have the opportunity to participate after consulting with the band director. The goal of this course is to continue the students' development on their chosen instrument with an emphasis on bridging the gap between middle school level music and high school level music. Students will work toward proper tone production, rhythmic accuracy and note accuracy through individual practice, ensemble rehearsals and performances. Performances will include concerts as well field trips to the district and state band festivals. Other performance opportunities may arise throughout the year. Participation in performances will constitute part of the student's grade. This course has a dress code for all performances.

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

Length: Full Year

Prerequisite: One year of music experience is preferred.

Middle school Percussion Ensemble is offered to students who have an interest in learning the techniques of playing percussion instruments in a performance class. The class will focus primarily on snare drum, keyboard percussion and timpani technique. Content includes the study of appropriate ensemble literature as well as rehearsal and performance techniques. The class will seek to create musically literate and competent percussionists with an appreciation of the role of percussion in a variety of musical settings. In addition to performing as a group, several members of the percussion ensemble will also perform with the intermediate and/or advanced bands at those group's concerts and festivals.

JAZZ BAND

Length: Full Year

Prerequisite: Students must audition, have at least one year of instrumental participation, and be enrolled in either Intermediate Band or Advanced Band or Orchestra.

Selection of Jazz Band members is by audition. Students must have at least one year of instrumental participation and have a desire to experience different styles of jazz, swing and rock music. Students will work toward proper jazz articulation, tone production and style. Performances will include school concerts, public performances and field trips. Students taking Jazz Band must also be enrolled in either Intermediate Band or Advanced Band or Orchestra. Participation in concerts will constitute part of the student's grade. This course has a dress code for all performances.

INTERMEDIATE ORCHESTRA 7/8

Length: Full Year

Prerequisite: One year playing experience or private lessons

Open to all 6th, 7th and 8th grades students who are interested in learning to play the violin, viola, cello or string bass. Students will play classical, popular, and folk styles on their instruments while also learning vibrato, shifting, note reading, sight singing, and musical expression. This orchestra will participate in the district Solo and Ensemble Festival, the East Cascade Orchestra Festival, and multiple evening performances.

LEADERSHIP

Length: Full Year

Prerequisite: None

In School Spirit, students work together to plan and organize school wide-events that make a positive difference in our school. Activities include: *school socials, spirit activities, lunch activities, assemblies, community events, field day, service projects, and additional student inspired ideas!* It is expected that each student will be respectful, accepting, and courteous of others in and out of our classroom.

ADVANCED ART

Length: Full Year

Prerequisite: Teacher Signature

This class is for students who have completed Beginning Art and want to delve further into visual arts. Students will work in various media and styles including drawing, watercolor, pastels, acrylics, printmaking, sculpture, design, and ceramics. This class is geared for students who have developed basic drawing skills and a grasp of the elements of art. Students should be motivated to push their artistic abilities through challenging activities.

DRAWING 1

Length: Semester

Prerequisite: None

This class will focus on the fundamentals of drawing and the elements and principles of design. Students will start with basic drawing skills and work through more advanced skills with a variety of media. Shading, perspective, proportion and composition will be covered. Art history and aesthetics will be integrated with projects.

SCULPTURE AND DESIGN

Length: Semester

Prerequisite: None

This class will focus on the fundamentals of sculpture and the elements and principles of design. Project will include ceramics, found object sculpture, mask-making, and others. Some 2-D design work can be expected as well.

DRAMA 1 (Improv)

Length: Semester

Prerequisite: None

This course will focus on improvisation skills. It is an introduction for anyone to learn the fundamentals of improvisation--the basic tools, rules, and philosophy--through games, drills, and simple scenes with a uniquely character-based "Groundlings"-inspired approach. It's VERY fun, VERY supportive and noncompetitive. In fun and engaging exercises, students will work on overcoming stage-fright, improving focus and concentration, connecting with others through trust games and active listening, understanding "stage presence," and opening their imaginations to playing characters. This is a great class if you want to continue with Drama 2 although it is not a prerequisite.

DRAMA 2 (Intro to Acting)

Length: Semester

Prerequisite: None

This course enlarges the student's understanding of "performance" in a playful, encouraging, collaborative atmosphere. Drama 2 (Introduction to Acting) is designed to offer students a dynamic, engaging introduction to theater training. It is specifically intended for both of those who've either never studied acting before or students who want to get back in touch with their creative impulses who have stage experience. Students will learn techniques for improving their self-confidence in a safe, playful environment through the exploration of basic acting principles. **A final play performance is required which may include after school participation.** You do not need to have taken Drama 1 class but it is encouraged.

COMPUTER SCIENCE 1 (CODING)

Length: Semester

Prerequisite: None

Students who participate in Basic Computer Science and Skills will learn the foundational concepts and skills they will need for success in high school Computer Science courses. Although learning to code and program is a central task, the course is designed to introduce students to ALL of the concepts of Computer Science through engaging activities that are both on and off the computer. They will solve real world problems that require both hard and soft skills as individuals and in groups. The course will strengthen the learner's ability to communicate, collaborate, critically think and be creative through various projects that depend on their willingness to persevere and work accurately.

WOODS

Length: Semester

Prerequisite: None

This course takes students to the building and woodshop phase of beginning engineering. Students work on projects designed for community mindedness. Projects range from simple iPad holders to outside park benches. Drafting and drawing skills will be learned and applied to designs before building begins. A heavy emphasis on shop safety and in the use of power tools (sanders, bandsaw, and chop saw) will be learned and applied.

CUSTODIAL AIDE

Length: Semester

Prerequisite: Must have Custodian's approval

ATTENDANCE, COUNSELING OR LIBRARY AIDES

Length: Choice of semester or year-long

Prerequisite: Must have teacher approval

Students will have the opportunity to aide for attendance, counseling or library. Students will participate in a variety of tasks that may include; answering the phone, looking up students, delivering notes, giving school tours, getting the mail, assisting in preparing for the day, making copies, creating bulletin boards and other tasks assigned. Additionally, this class requires students to work independently, take initiative, be a school role model and be highly responsible.

THEME BASED LANGUAGE ARTS

Length: Year long

Prerequisite: This Language Arts course replaces regular Language Arts

Theme based Language Arts approaches the subject in a whole new way! Using literature, poetry, art, music, and media, we will analyze thematic units such as, but not limited to: The Adventuring Spirit, Pop Culture through the Decades, World Mythology, A Window into the Future, and People Who Changed the World. While a bit unconventional it is completely standards-based covering reading skills, various types of writing, grammar and public speaking.

INTEGRATED DESIGN STUDIO

Length: Year Long

Prerequisite: Lottery

This is a 3-period class that combines design, language arts, and science for students who want **something different** and enjoy **making choices** about what they learn. In this class, you will identify problems that need to be solved at school, at home, in our community, our nation, and the world. You will study the problems you choose deeply and then work to design better ways of solving them. This class is for creative, independent students who enjoy active and personalized learning! It counts as a language arts class, science class, and an elective. See Mr. O. for more details.

REQUIRED COURSES**FALCON TIME**

Falcon time is a class that all Sky View students have two to four days per week pending finalization of schedule. On those days, students have a variety of options for how to spend the time. Students who are in good standing in their core classes have opportunities to attend clubs, activities, tutoring, art, and music studios, as well as other enrichment activities. Students needing assistance or catching up on tests and assignments will attend re-teaching sessions, test make-ups and more.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Length: Full Year

Prerequisite: none

The literature the 8th grade is involved with is comprised from a variety of genres. Novels, short stories, plays and poetry are all analyzed at this level. Students are required to write in all four of the modes required by the state (informative, imaginative, expository, and persuasive). They will write using all four modes, and these may be scored for work samples. Grammar and writing skills are stressed, with an emphasis on conventions, organization, and sentence fluency. Independent reading is also a component of the 8th grade Language Arts.

ADVANCED LANGUAGE ARTS (Replaces regular Language Arts)

Length: Full Year

Prerequisite: Placement in this class is based on 7th grade Language Arts 1st semester grades, standardized test scores, and teacher recommendations.

8th grade Advanced Language Arts is offered for eligible students who have mastered the general 6th and 7th grade curriculum. This advanced-level class is targeted at highly- motivated students who desire a rigorous and accelerated program that involves in-depth novel study, critical short story analysis, technical grammar applications, an introduction to Shakespeare, poetry explication, and required Common Core writing modes (informative, narrative, argumentative, response to literature).

8TH GRADE MATH

Length: Full Year

Prerequisite: none

Students will simplify and solve equations using guess and check, backtracking, balance puzzles, and inverse operations. Students will study ratio and proportion, rates, comparing and scaling, reasoning of proportional relationships, percents and predicting. Graph work includes interpreting linear, square, inverse, exponential and repeating relationships. Probability of independent and dependent events using theoretical and experimental probability will also be explored.

SCIENCE

Length: Full Year

Prerequisite: None

Science at the 7th and 8th grade level is an integrated blend of life, earth, & physical science. The major emphasis on the force and motion concepts of physical science occur in the 6th grade curriculum with reinforcement and extensions of the concepts occurring at the 7th and 8th grade levels. In the 8th grade students study fresh water ecology, review and extend cell studies, and genetics. Geologic topics include earthquakes, volcanoes, plate tectonics, rocks & minerals, and geologic time. The structure of matter is examined through a unit focusing on basic chemistry.

SOCIAL STUDIES-US HISTORY

Length: Full Year

Prerequisite: None

In 8th grade we study the history of the United States, beginning with the original thirteen colonies and ending with the “War Between the States” and the period of reconstruction that followed. The Five Themes in American History are applied as broad-based concepts to help students interpret and give meaning to: the people, major events, political and social issues and technological change significant to the development of our country. Key units of study include: Themes in U.S. Geography, The Revolutionary War, the U.S. System of Government/Constitution, Westward Expansion, Cultural Conflict, Industrial Change, Slavery and The Civil War. American literature, public speaking, internet research, PowerPoint presentation, writing, historical artifacts, individual and group projects are inherent elements of this class.

PE/HEALTH

Length: Full Year

Prerequisite: None

In this class students participate in PE for 27 weeks and rotate to Health for 9 weeks. This 9-week Health course is designed to help you gain knowledge and understanding of how to develop a healthy lifestyle now and in the future. We will be actively involved in developing strategies for leading a life that is healthy and productive. Topics that are covered: Alcohol, Depression and Suicide Awareness, Nutrition, Responsible Decision Making, Reproduction & STD's-HIV & AIDS.

INTERVENTIONS – Replaces Electives – Placement Determined by Teachers**MATH LAB**

Length: Semester or year long determined by test scores

Prerequisite: Students will be chosen based on a variety of data; school assessment data, ACT Aspire, Smarter Balanced, Easy CBM, and teacher recommendation.

LANGUAGE ARTS LAB

Length: Semester or year long determined by test scores

Prerequisite: Students will be chosen based on a variety of data; school assessment data, ACT Aspire, Smarter Balanced, Easy CBM, and teacher recommendation.