**8th Grade Core Classes**

**8th Language Arts~** In this course, students will learn the writing process using the six traits of writing as a guide. Students will practice persuasive, descriptive and research writing while practicing vocabulary and dictionary skills. They will also learn to organize their writing by composing paragraphs and essays. The literature portion teaches students to recognize the elements of fiction. They will also learn comprehension strategies to help them reflect on, consolidate, and extend meaning of literature and informational texts. **Full year**

**8th Grade Science~** 8th Grade Integrated Science focuses on the change process. It covers the following curriculum: Changes in Matter and Energy Conversions, Photosynthesis and Ecosystems, Energy Waves (Light and Sound), Forces and Motion, Simple Machines, and Rock Processes. **Full year**

**Math 8~ Full year**

**8th U.S. History~** This United States history course for Grade 8 is designed to emphasize historic events from the Age of Exploration to Reconstruction and Westward Expansion. Topics covered will include, but not limited to, the Age of Exploration, Colonization and Settlement, the Revolutionary War, the National Period, Constitutional issues, the Civil War, Reconstruction and Westward Expansion. The emphasis of this course is on the 18th and 19th centuries, there will be continued effort to review and develop content, process and thinking skills introduced in previous grades. **Full year**

**8th Health Education~** Health is the state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being. This class will help you identify these areas in your life and show you how to improve them. Think of this class as a life class. The goal is to give you the information you need to make the right decision. **Half year**

**P.E.~** Students learn and practice skills with a variety of sports and team sports. **Half year**

**8th Grade Elective Classes**

**FACS Exploratory~** FACS Exploration provides students the opportunity to learn essential life skills on a basic level. We will be covering Food and Nutrition and Clothing and Textiles. Students will be required to complete two projects. The sewing projects will include a pair of pajama pants, boxer-style shorts, or a purse. Other options are available. See teacher for approval. Completing a sewing project is a required assignment as part of this class. The sewing project is half of your student’s grade. In addition to a small class fee, students will be required to provide fabric for the project, pins and elastic. Black and white thread, seam rippers, and scissors are provided. \***small fee required Half year**

**Beginning Choir~** This course provides opportunities for students to develop their musical potential and aesthetic understanding through singing in a choral ensemble. Study includes the care and cultivation of a beautiful tone, aesthetic awareness, and the ability to read music, the building of technical skill, team spirit, and responsible rehearsal habit. Attention will also be given to relating their music experiences to personal development. **Half year**

**Advanced Choir~** This is an audition only class for those desiring to have a quality choir experience as well as participate in the musical. **Full or Half year**

**Beginning Band~** This class provides opportunities for students to develop their musical potential and aesthetic understanding through learning to play a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument. No prerequisite course is required. **Full year**

**Intermediate Jazz Band~** First time jazz students will be learning to improvise solos and become part of a traditional Big Band jazz ensemble. Students will perform a minimum of 1 ad lib solo at a performance during the semester. **Half year**

**Performance Band~** Students will continue learning to play their chosen instrument from Adv/Beg Band. **Full year**

**Advanced Band~** Students will continue learning to play their chosen instruments from beginning band and perform concerts and band festivals. This class is geared towards second year band students. **Full year**

**Advanced Jazz Band~** Second year jazz band students continue to learn how to improvise and expanding their skills and music styles in the Big Band jazz ensemble. Students will perform a minimum of one ad lib solo at a performance during the semester. **Half year**

**Beginning Orchestra~** This class if for students wishing to learn to play the violin, viola, cello, or string bass AND have fun making music. Instruments will be available for rent; private lessons are strongly encouraged. **Full year**

**Advanced Orchestra~** This is a combined class of intermediate and advanced students and expands upon the concepts learned in Beginning Orchestra. The orchestra will attend festivals and will have solo experiences. Private lessons are strongly encouraged. **Full year**

**Speech & Drama~** This class is a great class for students to learn and build confidence performing, acting, and presenting their work to their peers. Learning activities in this class include: reading and studying plays, scripts, and poems, writing and performing a puppet show. **Half year**

**Spanish I~** Students engage in conversations, provide and obtain information, express feelings and emotions, and exchange opinions. Students will understand and interpret written and spoken language on a variety of topics. Students present information, concepts, and ideas to an audience of listeners readers on a variety of topics. **Full year**

**Art~** Art I is an introductory class. Art I teaches students to be self-directed artists by preparing students with the skills necessary for understanding and exploring art. **Half year**

**Art II~** In Art II, students begin a ‘journey’ of self-directed exploration of different art styles and media. With the guidance of the teacher and other “journeymen,” the student artists decide from all our available units which ones they which to learn. Drawing, painting, collage, digital photograph, mask making, printmaking and weaving are all part of the program. **Half year**

**Dynamic Fitness~** Dynamic Fitness is a class that teaches all around lifelong wellness skills including cardio, strength, resistance and flexibility. **Half year**

**AVID~** Advancement Via Individual Determination is a program to prepare all students for college and other post-secondary opportunities.

**Debate~** This is a competitive speaking course. Students learn skills in the art of convincing and swaying judges to their opinion.

**Gateway to Technology~** This class is a STEM elective with curriculum including robotics and engineering. **Half year**