

2021/2022 WMS ELECTIVE DESCRIPTIONS

Please note: Elective offerings are subject to change, based on staffing, interest, etc. In addition, some electives are open strictly to 7th, 8th, or 6th grade students. Some electives also have prerequisites (**). **Please read the descriptions carefully to avoid signing up for electives you are not eligible to take.** Every effort will be made to accommodate students' choices; however, there is no guarantee that all requests will be met.

BAND (BEGINNING)- 6th/7th/8th- (Year)

Are you talented, creative and hardworking? Do you want to be successful and have fun? Learning to play a musical instrument engages every area of the brain at once and decades of research have shown that students who can play an instrument are among the most successful students in high school, college, and life in general. Beginning Band is a year-long class where students will learn to play flute, clarinet, trumpet trombone, bass clarinet, tuba, or possibly saxophone. Students will be able to audition for one of our percussionist positions after our Winter Concert. Students will experience concert performances, recording sessions, and marching opportunities. There will be Winter and Spring concerts that you will be expected to participate in, but they are really fun and a great experience. In addition to our Winter and Spring concerts, we will march in the Town of Windsor Parade, and may perform at the Windsor Town Green and for other schools in the Windsor Unified School District. Participation in music classes has been shown to increase performance in math and language arts, and prepare students with 21st century job skills.

HONORS BAND- 7th/8th- (Year) **

****Prerequisite: Successful Completion of Beginning Band, Honor Band or other experience.** Wanted: Committed, Hardworking, Team Players who want to play in a high quality performing ensemble. These students realize that learning to play a musical instrument engages every area of the brain at once and that decades of research have shown that students who can play an instrument are among the most successful students in high school, college, and life in general. Honor Band is a year-long college preparatory learning community for students with emphasis on becoming a better musician, learning more advanced music and techniques, and further developing skills on flute, clarinet, saxophone, bass clarinet, bassoon, trumpet, trombone, tuba, and French horn, or percussion. **Having a good attitude and being committed to excellence are required as is excellent classroom behavior.** Students will experience concert performances, recording sessions, and band festivals. There will be Winter and Spring concerts that you will be expected to participate in, but they are really fun and a great experience. In addition to our Winter and Spring Concerts, Honor Band members will have the opportunity to attend the Sonoma Jump Start weekend retreat at the Cazadero Music Camp. A class field trip to watch a performance by a professional group is also planned. Participation in music classes

has been shown to increase performance in math and language arts, and prepare students with 21st century job skills.

CHORUS (BEGINNING) - 6th ONLY (Year)

No experience necessary. A year-long entry level learning community concentrating on vocal skills and techniques. 2nd semester explores choir choreography. We will sing music from a wide variety of cultures, languages and styles. In addition to our Winter and Spring Concerts- **ATTENDANCE AT CONCERTS IS MANDATORY.** we will perform at the Town of Windsor Tree Lighting Ceremony and there are opportunities for small group performances in the community (Farmer's market, Christmas Caroling, sr. center performances). Participation in music classes has been shown to increase performance in math and language arts, and prepare students with 21st century job skills. If you've always wanted to sing, but never had the nerve or the opportunity, this is your chance! There will be some written homework and practice is required..

INTRODUCTION TO PERFORMING ARTS (CTE)-7th/8th (Year)

No experience necessary. Experience with Singing will be very helpful. Many aspects of theater arts will be covered. Acting, Singing, Dancing, Set design & building, Costuming, Marketing & Advertising, Composing, Choreography, digital media, sound, lighting. With our new cutting edge sound and lighting system on the stage you will learn entry level industry skills.

ATTENDANCE AT PERFORMANCES IS MANDATORY Many performances take place in this class including choir concerts (Winter & Spring) we will perform at the Town of Windsor Tree Lighting Ceremony and there are opportunities for small group performances in the community (Farmer's market, Christmas Caroling, sr. center performances) There will be some written homework and practice is required..

STRINGS (BEGINNING) OVERTURE - 6th/7th/8th (Year)

No experience necessary. A year-long entry level learning community for students who are interested in developing their beginning level skills on violin, viola, cello, or bass. This is a great opportunity to learn music, be a part of a team, and perform in public! In this class we will: learn to read music, learn an instrument, learn songs, start and develop technique, and develop ensemble playing skills. Consistent attendance and excellent classroom behavior is a must for a positive and progressive learning environment in this very challenging class. Concepts are moved through with some pace. Excellent organization skills are required. There will be Winter and Spring concerts that you will be expected to participate in, but they are really fun and a great experience. Participation in music classes has been shown to increase performance in math and language arts, and prepare students with 21st century job skills. Music, specifically playing an instrument, has been proven to enhance many aspects of brain activity and development, such as imagination, problem solving, creativity, critical thinking, self direction, and collaboration.

STRINGS (HONORS) ORCHESTRA– 7th/8th (Year) **

*****Prerequisite: Successful completion of Beginning Strings or other ensemble experience -***

This is a year-long performing group that is composed of violins, violas, cello and string bass. Emphasis is on becoming a better musician, learning more advanced music and techniques, as well as preparation for High School level strings. . Repertoire will consist of classical, jazz, rock and pop music. There will be a continuation of technique study. Students will experience many performance opportunities. Be a part of the string orchestra team! Music, specifically playing an instrument, has been proven to enhance many aspects of brain activity and development, such as imagination, problem solving, creativity, critical thinking, self direction, and collaboration. This is a skill that will last a lifetime!

KEYBOARD/GUITAR-- This is a year long elective where students will learn to play piano keyboards and guitars. WMS has a state of the art Keyboard and Guitar Lab that allows students to learn to read music, learn to play simple songs on pianos and guitars, record themselves and explore a universe of sounds. Students will get to work independently at their own pace, and work with others on group projects. There are no performances outside of class, and little or no homework. Music, specifically playing an instrument, has been proven to enhance many aspects of brain activity and development, such as imagination, problem solving, creativity, critical thinking, self direction, and collaboration. This is a skill that will last a lifetime!

INTRODUCTION TO FRENCH - 7th/8th Grade ONLY (Year)

This course is designed to be an introduction to the French language. Students will develop skills in reading, writing, listening comprehension, and speaking through a wide variety of interactive activities surrounding French cultures worldwide. This academic class is equivalent to French I at Windsor High School.

INTRODUCTION TO ENGINEERING (S.T.E.A.M- Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) – 7th/8th Grade

Introduction to Engineering and Computer Science is an elective course preparing students to explore careers in engineering, computer science, and other STEM related fields. This course is hands-on, practical, and technical class engaging students in professional level skills used in the fields of engineering, robotics, and computer science. Students will apply knowledge and skills acquired in Introduction to Engineering and Computer Science to an understanding of Design Thinking to think of problem solving through a process that has them first empathize, then define, ideate, prototype, and finally test in order to create solutions. Additionally, through project based learning, students will develop their teamwork, time management, and project

management skills. Competencies in this course are aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards Standards for Mathematical Practice, and Discipline Literacy Standards.

LEADERSHIP-7th/8th (Year)**

In this class students will become familiar with different ways of exercising leadership, their own strengths and weaknesses, and how they can best work with others in a leadership context. They will learn and apply leadership skills in a hands-on practical way. Students are responsible for organizing school events throughout the year, creating video content for the morning announcements and completing monthly student activities, such as rallies. Students will also participate in maintaining the student store as well as the yearbook.

**** This course is a requirement for ASB officers.****

ASB Officers Elected Positions:

- *Must be elected by the student body.*
- **President:** Runs all weekly and monthly general meetings; oversees all activities and actions in ASB; required to do all public speaking engagements, including weekly Student update videos. Open to 8th Graders only.
- **Vice-President:** Assists Executive Council members and substitutes when President or other council members are absent; helps oversee all activities.
- **Secretary:** Records minutes during all meetings; keeps all records and ASB calendar
- **Treasurer:** Signs all financial forms; reports on expenditures and finances; oversees budget for ASB

AVID- 7th/8th (Year) ** .

****Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation. An AVID application must be filled out in order to be eligible for consideration for the program.**

This elective is offered to students who meet the following criteria: GPA between 2.0-3.50, excellent attendance, excellent classroom behavior, and teacher recommendation. The goal of this course is to prepare students with the potential to go to college and for the rigor of high

school classes. The 8th grade course offers students an opportunity to expand their experiences and general knowledge through writing, inquiry, collaboration, and reading. Students will also get college and career exposure through field trips and class speakers. Additionally, a 7th grade class is offered with a focus on note taking, binder organization, time management, goal setting and self-exploration. Students in AVID will focus on study strategies, note taking, organization, Socratic discussions, and creating a personal portfolio. This course generally targets students who would be the first in their family to attend college.

LAW/GOVERNMENT-7th/8th (Year)

Do you have strong opinions, and like to talk? Are you interested in becoming a better public speaker, have interest in law enforcement, or want to someday get into politics? If so, this class is for you. We will study Law by holding mock trials in which you get to be a lawyer, judge, jury person, or witness. There will be crime scene activities such as fingerprinting, and evidence analysis, and we will learn how an alleged crime proceeds to trial. We will also work on formal argumentation (debate) through the mock trials, debates, and current events provided by students. For the Government part of the class we will focus on the Bill of Rights, government procedures, and compare and contrast different government forms throughout the world, and history. We will also explore the connection between rights and responsibilities, and the difference between privileges and rights. Strong opinions are encouraged and welcomed. You **MUST** be willing to hear opposing views with respect and fairness. This is an exciting class, and I hope to see you in it next year. Have a great day, and make the world a better place.

LITERATURE THROUGH FILM - 7th/8th(Year)

This is an elective course designed to have students read, analyze and evaluate literature and compare literary works to film adaptations as well as common themes in both literature and film. We will be exploring a variety of books, poems, and short stories, and movies, and discussing their value as both literary pieces and works of art in film. We will look at directorial choices, comparing and contrasting films and the literature that it connects with.

CULINARY I (Beginning)- 7th/8th

Discover a career in culinary! In this class you will learn everything from kitchen safety, nutrition, harvesting the school garden, using recipes, different cooking methods, and careers in hospitality via field trips and guest speakers. You will taste favorite foods from breakfast, lunch, appetizers, dinner, and dessert...that you have prepared yourself!

CULINARY II (Intermediate)-8th ONLY (Year) **

****Prerequisite: Successful completion of Beginning Culinary (Farm to Table) as well as Culinary Teacher approval.** Expand your knowledge of culinary! In this class, you will dive deeper into the world of hospitality. Advanced Culinary will continue to focus on the skills learned in 7th grade while continuing to increase your culinary repertoire. By the year's end, you will be an expert in kitchen safety, nutrition, the school garden, using recipes, different cooking methods, and careers in hospitality all while tasting foods that you have prepared yourself!

STUDENT AIDE ELECTIVE OPTIONS

LIBRARY AIDE - 8th ONLY(Year) **

****Prerequisite: Must have a GPA of a 3.0 or higher and have a love of reading! Typing and computer skills are recommended. Must complete and turn in the TA application.** Position includes helping in the organization and daily management of the school library. Skills and interests needed include: the ability and willingness to organize and to follow directions; attention to detail and accuracy are important. Willingness to help others and an interest in books are also needed.

OFFICE AIDE - 8th ONLY (Year) **

****Prerequisite: Must have a GPA of a 3.0 or higher and turn in Aide application. Pass interview with office staff.** Office aides are selected to assist the secretary/clerks in the main office. They are responsible for answering/screening phone calls properly, running errands/messages to classes, filing and various other tasks as they arise. Need responsible 8th grade students with good attendance, clean discipline record, cooperative, outgoing, willing to work hard and understand "confidentiality" a must.

TEACHER'S AIDE - 7th/8th (Year) **

****Prerequisite Prior teacher approval needed. Must complete and turn in Aide application.** Position includes helping in the organization and daily tasks of the supervising teacher. Skills and interests needed include: the ability and willingness to organize and to follow directions; attention to detail and accuracy are important.

