

## 7TH/8TH GRADE ELECTIVE DESCRIPTIONS 2021-2022

Included are course descriptions of both our teacher led and virtual electives.

In-person/At-School students will have the opportunity to take a virtual elective during their elective hour on their own. There will be an area where students report and are supervised but they will be receiving the elective instruction virtually.

The descriptions for the electives are as follows:

### TEACHER LED ELECTIVES

**Athletics** - Girls athletics we offer softball, cross country, basketball and track.

Boys athletics we offer football, cross country, basketball and track. We want to be competitive, have fun, and enjoy the time and teamwork with teammates. You will learn how to work with each other, learn life lessons, and the ability to fully understand fundamentally and mentally the sports we offer.

**Art/Yearbook**- We learn and do hands-on activities using the 7 Elements of Art. Displaying all of our art projects at the end of the semester. We will also be doing periodic activities to produce, promote, and sell our school yearbooks.

**Band** (full year course) - This course is designed to provide students with an enriching and diverse instrumental music education by performing music of various genres and time periods. The class will perform two concerts during the year to demonstrate their learning of such music. The daily objective of the course is to foster and promote music growth through the playing of an instrument by the student, at an appropriate level of difficulty. As the band works as a team, group effort and cooperation are necessary for a successful program. Band is a skilled effort in which each student is expected to show technical and musical growth throughout the course. Prerequisites: Students need to have already been enrolled in beginning/intermediate band. Experience with the instrument is a prerequisite for this class.

**PE** - This class will incorporate weight lifting, speed, agility, and CrossFit workouts. Outdoor education including fishing, frisbee golf and golf will also be included with this elective. Traditional PE games will also be included in this class. We will also play sports like volleyball, badmitten, and basketball. This class includes a variety of activities to help promote a healthy and active lifestyle.

**Robotics** (full year course) - In the Robotics course, students will design and build VEX robots. The VEX Robotics Design System is a robotic kit intended to introduce students to robotics. The robot will be able to do simple tasks and be operated by students. This class will allow students to design, modify and apply concepts learned to effectively and efficiently solve problems.

Students are expected to attend competitions on some Saturdays. The competitions last all day, and we usually return late evening. The student will be expected to purchase a t-shirt to wear to competitions. Students will receive grades for this class. Prerequisites: Good grades, good attitude, willingness to learn

**Scholars** (Full year course)- Scholars is a gifted and talented course that offers differentiated learning by initiating creative problem-solving and cognitive growth practices. This course simultaneously prepares the JT Academic Team for competition. Prerequisites: Qualify for the gifted and talented program or teacher recommendation.

**Study Hall** - Study hall is an opportunity for students to work on homework, take make-up tests, work ahead on assignments, or enjoy some free reading time. This is an hour of quiet work time and students are expected to make the most of this opportunity to be organized and prepared to be successful in class.

**Teaching Assistant/Office Aide** – This class allows students the opportunity to choose to help in a variety of ways. Teaching Assistants help in individual classrooms with some of the needs of the teachers. Library assistants help in the library. Office aides help the day-to-day needs of the office. Students are often assigned to help in the cafeteria with the younger students as well. Prerequisites: Responsible, ability to interact with others, and self-directed

**Vocal Music** (Offered 2nd Semester)- Chorus students will learn to use their vocal instrument to create a correct and pleasing singing sound. In addition to learning proper vocal production and technique, students will also learn music reading skills, sight-singing skills, and performance skills. Chorus also offers opportunities for students to develop team building and leadership skills. This is a performance-based class. Participation in concert performances outside of regular class hours is required.

## VIRTUAL ELECTIVES

**Healthy Living** (Semester Course)- Encouraging students to make responsible, respectful, informed, and capable decisions about topics that affect the well-being of themselves and others, this course is a one-semester course that provides students with comprehensive information they can use to develop healthy attitudes and behavior patterns. This informative and engaging course encourages students to recognize that they have the power to choose healthy behaviors to reduce risks.

**Introduction to Spanish** (Semester Course)- Middle school students begin their introduction to Spanish with fundamental building blocks in four key areas of foreign language study: listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. Each unit consists of an ongoing adventure story, a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, numerous interactive games reinforcing vocabulary and grammar, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing

activities, and multimedia cultural presentations covering major Spanish-speaking areas in Europe and the Americas.

**Strategies for Academic Success** (Semester Course)- Offering a comprehensive analysis of different types of motivation, study habits, and learning styles, this one-semester course encourages middle school students to take control of their learning by exploring varying strategies for success. Providing engaging lessons that will help students identify what works best for them individually, this one-semester course covers important study skills, such as strategies for taking high-quality notes, memorization techniques, test-taking strategies, benefits of visual aids, and reading techniques.

**Career Management** (Semester Course)- Career Management is a semester-length course that assists students in their preparation for career selection. The course is designed to improve workforce skills needed in all careers including communication, leadership, teamwork, decision making, problem solving, goal setting and time management. Students complete activities that help identify personal interests, aptitudes, and learning styles. Students use results of self-assessments to determine careers that may prove personally satisfying. ***Completing this semester course unlocks the ability to take a course in the career field of their interest.***

**Introduction to Computer Science** (Full Year Course)- This course introduces students to the foundational concepts of computer science and challenges them to explore how computing and technology can impact the world. Students have creative, hands-on learning opportunities to create a computer program, develop a web page, design a mobile app, write algorithms, and collaborate with peers while building a strong foundational knowledge base. This course provides a solid foundation for more advanced study as well as practical skills they can use immediately.