



BUENA VISTA MIDDLE SCHOOL **7TH AND 8TH GRADE ELECTIVES**

Hello Parents and Students! It's almost time to select the electives for next school year! This booklet will give you a description of the courses to help you choose. Courses are open to 7th or 8th grade students unless specified for 8th grade only. Some courses require an application process which will be completed in late April. Art classes have course fees.

Students will pick an equivalent of two full-year courses. If students take any specialized classes for reading or academic support, that will be one of the full-year electives. In total, electives are equivalent to:

- 4 semester courses, or
- 2 semester courses and 1 full-year, or
- 2 full-year courses
- Alternate classes must also be designated in case the student's first choices are full or the choices conflict with each other on the student's schedule (courses that are at the same time).

A paper form will be sent home with this booklet so that parents/guardians can discuss choices with their students, make selections, and approve the choices.

IMPORTANT NOTE TO STUDENTS:

Keep your paper form until we have you select the courses on Infinite Campus at school. You will turn the form in at that time. Do not bring them to the front office before we pick classes. You will need it on elective choice day.

SEMESTER COURSES

BEYOND STORYTELLING:

In this semester-long class, students will use creativity, collaboration and curiosity to explore the techniques of storytelling. This class will utilize STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) concepts, as well as more traditional approaches to the creation of a story. There will be interactive/choose your adventure tales, coding (Alice and Scratch), script writing, filming, comics, interviews, Escape Rooms and more. Students will also design, create, and produce the middle school newspaper.

DIGITAL ART (8TH ONLY, course fee, \$5):

This semester class will offer 8th-grade students who want to add more art enrichment to their schedule that focuses on digital projects. Projects will be explored through a variety of digital techniques, programs, and digital photography. Students will continue to use the Elements and Principles of Design and some hand drawn art for many projects and they will continue to build on these concepts. Tablets, camera phones, cameras, and school laptops will be used for projects. There is a limit of 10 students for each semester.

EXPLORATORY SPANISH:

This is a semester-long course designed for students to explore the Spanish language and culture. It will cover basic skills such as the alphabet, numbers, greetings, and high-frequency words in a simple format to keep the learning fun. Students will be involved in role-play, do easy grammar exercises, do puzzles, draw and learn a great deal about Spanish culture.

EXPLORING STEM:

During this class, students will explore science, technology, engineering and technology in engaging ways. This is a new class for this year, and the curriculum is being developed now. We know that it will include topics such as circuitry, drones, engineering concepts for bridge-building, and much more.

WORLD CULTURES:

In this semester course, through a variety of hands-on activities, students explore the art, music, literature, film, mass media, history, sports, and food of various countries and cultures. A key focus is looking at nations that are often misunderstood or misrepresented in the media. We analyze these representations and stereotypes. By looking at several aspects of culture, we examine the other side of the story and alternative points of view. Another important component of World Cultures is connecting with students from another country and working on joint projects with poetry, symbolism, and art.

FULL-YEAR COURSES

MIXED CHOIR:

The Mixed Choir (NOVA Singers) is a training ground to become musicians and learn all types of vocal control. This choir will provide opportunities for students to explore and challenge themselves through singing, songwriting, dance, piano, ukulele, music theory, and poetry. This community is built around creative expression, the courage to be yourself, and empathetic connection. Students are required to perform at the fall and spring concerts as well as the CHSAA Large Group Festival. 7th and 8th-grade singers can audition for *Colorado Middle All State Choir*. You can join choir even if you don't know how to sing. The teacher's job will be giving the students the tools to find their voices.

MIXED MEDIA ART (course fee, \$10):

This full-year class will offer 7th and 8th-grade students who want to add more art enrichment to their schedule that focuses on higher level and more in-depth projects. 2D art techniques will be explored through a variety of mediums including stamping, embossing, print making, and recycled materials along with traditional materials such as paint, sharpies, and paper. 3D art will be explored through a variety of mediums including cardboard, clay, wire, recycled materials, etc. along with traditional materials such as paint, sharpies, and paper. Students will continue to use the Elements and Principles of Design for many projects and they will continue to build on these concepts. If you took it as a 7th grader you can take it again as an 8th grader.

SYMPHONIC BAND:

Beginning Band is a prerequisite unless you have teacher approval. Students continue to develop the musical skills that were learned in the Beginning Band. We continue to explore the elements of reading music, learning music theory, listening and performing music from different cultures and genres, and creating music through improvisation and composition. A strong emphasis is placed on developing a sense of community and connection, where students feel they are an integral and indispensable part of the group. Students are encouraged to perform regularly in small group chamber ensembles so they can work at their own personal challenge levels. We also continue to have performance opportunities such as Band concerts and other public performances. Students in the 7th and 8th grade are encouraged to perform at the CHSAA Solo & Ensemble Festival and to audition for honor bands, such as our regional honor band and the CU Honor Band. Students are also expected to perform in band concerts and our CHSAA and/or CBA Large Group Festival.

FULL-YEAR COURSES - BY APPLICATION ONLY

*APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY **MAY 4, 2023** TO BE CONSIDERED. SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION DOES NOT GUARANTEE ENROLLMENT IN THE CLASS. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU PICK ALTERNATIVE CHOICES IN CASE YOU DO NOT GET INTO AN APPLICATION CLASS!*

SPANISH – THE NEXT LEVEL:

By application. The first quarter will focus on introductory level material in Spanish and the Latin American culture. Students learn basic language patterns and vocabulary through the Total Physical Response Storytelling (TPRS) method. This method focuses and teaches students to read, write, listen, and speak Spanish at an elementary level using the present tense. Spanish and culture are introduced through the use of media, movies, dramatizations, gestures, readings, novels, and class discussions. In the remaining quarters, this class continues the TPRS method to enhance students' speaking, reading, writing, and listening skills in Spanish. TPRS provides the vehicle for students to acquire grammar structures and vocabulary, which allows students to hear, see, act out retell, revise, and rewrite their own stories. Easy to follow stories and illustrations are used to help students to think in Spanish. This method also allows students to add humor, creativity, and originality to class stories and their original stories. More intricate structures are acquired along with exposure to more of the tenses weaved into embedded readings, stories, extended readings, and novels. Students learn more high-frequency vocabulary and grammar is explained more fully but again is not emphasized. Active participation is required in this class, and students are encouraged to speak Spanish for everyday conversation in class.

INTRO TO WEIGHTS (8TH ONLY):

By application. A positive and intense speed, agility, and strength program. It is designed to help students develop proper patterns of movement with their bodies that will benefit them for the rest of their lives. Each session combines speed, agility, plyometric training, and flexibility work with a highly successful strength program that involves anaerobic and aerobic energy systems. 8th graders will focus on speed & agility drills along with the technique for proper lifting. They will gain the fundamentals for proper lifting, running mechanics, body awareness, and movements to increase performance in becoming more skillful and confident, which will positively affect their future in traditional and non-traditional athletics and life endeavors. To apply for this class, you will need to fill out an application form and write an essay on why you would be considered a good fit for this program. The essay must be a minimum of 100 words and a maximum of 150 words.

YEARBOOK

By application. Students create the middle school yearbook. Student responsibilities for this include determining the theme, designing pages, photographing events, story writing, and editing. Students will also write, edit, and publish one newspaper per quarter. The core responsibility of each student will be their specific assigned section of the newspaper. Students will be interviewing coaches, staff, students, etc. for their projects.