Elective One Pager – Rising 8th Grade

Fine Art Electives

Art III 8: Students continue to practice and apply the basic elements of art and principles of design. Students continue their progress with more advanced techniques, both traditional and contemporary, using a variety of media. Originality of work and creativity are stressed in order to develop the higher- order thinking skills of evaluation, reasoning, and justification. Students are encouraged to take creative risks, thus improving their self-concept through competency with techniques and various mark making tools. Art appreciation and art history are basic to the course. Creating a portfolio of works, including the sketchbook is required. Students will have the opportunity to participate in competitions. Students may be required to purchase some materials (art kit or supply list). An art fee may be required in some instances. Sketchbooks are required.
Art I and Art II are prerequisite for Art III.
Art I 7/8 and Art II 7/8 are also available for 8th graders depending on courses previously taken.

Theatre III 8: Students will participate in theatre performances—both as actors and technicians. Students will create characters using expressive use of the body and voice and have the opportunity to participate in theatre competitions and stage productions.
Theatre I and Theatre II are prerequisites for Theatre III.
Theatre I 7/8 and Theatre II 7/8 are also available for 8th graders depending on courses previously taken.

Band: Band III stresses instrumental musicianship through performance and competition. Students continue to refine and develop skills of leadership, responsibility, cooperation, self-discipline, and concentration, as well as artistic expression. Band students will be involved in numerous performances and competitions throughout the year. Placement is by audition only. Students may be required to purchase or rent their own instruments, as well as purchase some instructional materials. (Instruments may be obtained through a rental/purchase agreement.) The school furnishes some instruments, such as oboes, bassoons, horns, tubas, and percussion equipment for classroom use. An annual $80 fee is charged to students selected by the program director to use school-owned instruments. It may be necessary to purchase some materials for uniformity of dress for performance purposes.

Choir: Choral Music III emphasis is placed on developing a mature singing voice using three and four-part harmony. Vocal and ensemble techniques are reinforced. Choral singing allows students to use the skills of good musicianship, tone production, and stage presence through performance and competition. Sight-reading skills will continue to be developed. Leadership skills, cooperation, and self-discipline are reinforced through individual responsibility and teamwork. Placement is by audition only. It may be necessary to purchase some materials for uniformity of dress for performance purposes.

Orchestra: Orchestra III stresses instrumental musicianship through performance and competition. Students continue to refine and develop skills of leadership, responsibility, cooperation, self-discipline, and concentration, as well as artistic expression. Orchestra students will be involved in numerous performances and competitions throughout the year. Placement is by audition only. Students may be required to purchase or rent their own instruments, as well as purchase some instructional materials. (Instruments may be obtained through a rental/ purchase agreement.) The school furnishes some instruments, such as cellos, basses, and harps for classroom use. An annual $80 fee is charged to students selected by the program director to use school-owned instruments. It may be necessary to purchase some materials for uniformity of dress for performance purposes.

Other Electives

Touch Systems Data Entry: This course counts for high school credit and toward the HS GPA and class rank. It is paired with Dollars and Sense in the Spring semester. This course will allow students to develop keyboarding skills and techniques. Students will use software applications to develop and format basic business documents as well as enhance reading, writing, computing, and communication skills applicable to a variety of industries.

Dollars and Sense: This course counts for high school credit and toward the HS GPA and class rank. It is paired with Touch System Data Entry in the Fall semester. Dollars and Sense focuses on consumer practices and responsibilities, money-management processes, decision making skills, and impact of technology. The student demonstrates management of individual and family resources such as finances, food, clothing, shelter, health care, recreation, transportation, time, and human Capital.

College and Career Exploration: The goal of Career and College Exploration is to help students build career awareness and engage in deep exploration and study of the Texas CTE career clusters to create a foundation for success in high school, possible postsecondary studies, and careers. The career development process is unique to every person and evolves throughout one's life. In Career and College Exploration, students use decision-making and problem-solving skills for individual career and academic planning. Students explore valid, reliable educational and career information to learn more about themselves and their interests and abilities. Students integrate skills from academic subjects, information technology, and interpersonal communication to make informed decisions. This course is designed to guide students through the process

of investigating and developing a college and career readiness plan. Students use aptitude and interest inventory assessments, labor market information, software, or other tools available to explore a variety of career paths, especially those in demand. Students will begin mapping their anticipated secondary coursework and potential postsecondary experiences that are in alignment with their goals.

Fundamentals of Comp. Sci.: This course counts for high school credit and toward the HS GPA and class rank. Fundamentals of Computer Science will foster student creativity and innovation by presenting opportunities to design, implement, and present solutions to real-world problems. Students will collaborate and use computer science concepts to access, analyze, and evaluate information needed to solve problems. Students will work with HTML, Scratch, Python, or JavaScript programming languages. Participation in this course satisfies the level one course requirement of the Programming and Software Development Pathway in the STEM program area.

Broadcasting: This course teaches graphic design elements for digital media, along with video and audio production techniques in various project-based learning. This course will produce an in-school video/audio communication program. **Entry based on teacher recommendation and application.**

Journalism: This course provides students the opportunity to learn skills necessary for school newspaper production and/or yearbook production, journalistic writing, editing, illustration, layout, distribution, and sales. A school newspaper/yearbook is produced by students in the class. **Entry based on teacher recommendation and application.**

Spanish I: This course counts for high school credit and toward the HS GPA and class rank. The goal of the study of the beginning levels of modern languages is communicative competence in authentic, real-world situations. Students in this course will develop novice-mid to novice high proficiency in speaking, listening, reading, and writing on topics dealing with people, places, and events they are likely to encounter in everyday life. The cultural products, practices, and perspectives of the target culture(s) are integrated into all aspects of the course. This course is conducted in the target language as much as possible.

Spanish for Spanish Speakers: Screened for oral and written proficiency in Spanish. This course counts for high school credit and toward the HS GPA and class rank. Students who are heritage or native speakers of Spanish may receive credit for Spanish I and II upon successful completion of this course in one year. The main objective of this course is to help heritage, or native speakers of Spanish become fully bilingual and biliterate so that they can benefit from this skill in the workforce in the future. The focus of this course is to increase students' proficiency level in all three modes of communication, recognizing that the needs of heritage and native speakers are different from those of non-native and non-heritage students of Spanish. Students are expected to achieve a minimum of intermediate-mid proficiency level by the end of this course, depending upon their beginning level.

Technovations II: This course counts for high school credit and toward the HS GPA and class rank. Building upon the foundational knowledge gained in Technovations I, this course will dive deeper into more complex and practical robotics applications while introducing aviation and more advanced coding. Students will apply their engineering skills to design and program more advanced robots for real-world scenarios. They will explore the core principles of flight, aerodynamics, and elementary drone design.

Office Work: Application and interview with approval by a campus committee. Students who have strong academic grades, good conduct, and a teacher's recommendation may take Office Work. Students perform routine office assignments, such as answering the phone and delivering messages.

Peer Assistance & Leadership (PALS): Application and interview with approval by a campus committee. Students learn and develop leadership skills in goal setting, communication, peer listening, group dynamics, project planning, and implementation. Students also investigate techniques and skills needed to provide programs to their peers that increase motivation, self-esteem, and student involvement.