

Middle School Elective Courses with Descriptions

Course	Description
Career Explorations	In this course, students will learn about various careers that are available today and complete self-evaluations to determine which careers are most interesting to them. Assignments, including research and interviews, will help give students a hands-on approach to creating a plan for the future.
MS Civics	Learning about civics gives students the skills and knowledge necessary to be active citizens who have a positive impact on their communities. In this course, students discover the rights and responsibilities of citizenship in the United States. They learn about the structure of the government and how it works at the local, state, and federal levels. This course examines elections, the lawmaking process, and how citizens can impact public policy. Students also discover ways the United States interacts with countries around the world. Geography and economics support the learning of civics in this course. Engaging in this study prepares students to be informed citizens who are ready to participate in the American democracy!
MS Computer Literacy	Students must be able to effectively use technology to research, organize, create, and evaluate information. In this introductory course, students become familiar with the basic principles of a personal computer, including the internal hardware, operating system, and software applications. Students gain practice in using key applications such as word processing, spreadsheet, and presentation software, as well as understand social and ethical issues around the internet, information and security. In the first part of the course, the focus is on the fundamentals: learning and using applications, and understanding the basic roles and responsibilities of the software, hardware, and operating system. In the second part, the focus is on gathering and analyzing data, and using the right tools and methods to collect and present data.
MS Critical Thinking & Problem Solving	This course teaches students how to find important information quickly, transfer it from short to long term memory, and perform better on assignments and tests. The course teaches students specific strategies to use in any content area in their academic studies to become more efficient learners. Students will feel confident in their abilities to link new information to what they already know.
NOT AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME MS Photography	In this course, students learn and apply fundamental skills to use a camera and take photographs of animals, people, and landscapes. Students gain an understanding of how photography can be a means of documentation or high art. Students examine photographic careers and explore self-reflection to progress their creative growth as they develop a photographic portfolio. This course helps students select subjects, take a photograph, and print and display memories.
Spanish (Beginning)	In this course, students take a virtual tour of Spain. Of course the visit will be more enjoyable if the students know what the people around them are saying. This course provides basic vocabulary, keeps students from getting lost, and helps them make some new Spanish friends. Students learn to ask for directions, order food in a restaurant, and talk about the weather, all without being embarrassed by their accents. New words and phrases are introduced with text, pictures, and audio clips that demonstrate proper pronunciation. Students acquire skills to read, write, and speak basic Spanish. Students also learn the basic Spanish grammar that will make their sentences come out right, Don't leave home without MS Spanish Beginning. This course gives students the ability to enjoy their trip to Spain and to soak up some of the local culture during their virtual tour.

<p>Spanish (Intermediate)</p>	<p>In this course, our student traveler, Cristina, will be taking you on a journey to Spain, Puerto Rico, Colombia, and Argentina. She will share her experiences with you as you learn about the different cultures of each of these Spanish speaking countries. As you explore each country with Cristina, you will learn how to speak Spanish in many practical and useful situations that will apply to your everyday environment. You will learn how to greet people, introduce yourself, speak about your family, your home, food, sports, weather and your likes and dislikes. New words and phrases will be introduced with pictures, audio clips, videos, and examples. You will learn basic Spanish grammar to help you form sentences correctly, build your fluency, and provide you with a more thorough understanding of the Spanish Language. There will be many opportunities to practice what you learn through interactive activities in the form of games and written, listening, and speaking exercises. Learning about other cultures, and appreciating their differences is also an important part of this course. You will learn about foods, shopping patterns, meal times, music, homes and celebrations in different Spanish speaking countries. As you explore with Cristina you will begin to appreciate and understand the diversity of the Spanish speaking world. Enjoy your journey with Cristina and share your experiences and everything you learn with your family and friends!</p>
<p>Art 6th Grade <u>Only Available 2nd Semester</u></p>	<p>Journey through time and place while examining some of the greatest masterpieces created. In this course, students will explore world regions and study the unique artifacts and works of architecture that define ancient civilizations. From Mesopotamia, the world’s first civilization, to the Roman streets of Pompeii, participants will learn the fundamental concepts of art, how to look at and evaluate art, and the intended function of natural history museums through hands-on activities, discussions, written assignments and objective assignments.</p>
<p>Art 7th Grade <u>Only Available 2nd Semester</u></p>	<p>Journey through time and place while examining some of the greatest masterpieces created. In this course, students will explore world regions and study the unique art and architecture that defines the medieval and Renaissance periods. From Leonardo da Vinci to the Taj Mahal, participants will learn the fundamental concepts of art, how to look at and evaluate art, and the intended functions of art museums through hands-on activities, discussions, written assignments, and objective assessments.</p>
<p>Art 8th Grade <u>Only Available 2nd Semester</u></p>	<p>Journey through time and place while examining some of the greatest masterpieces created. In this course students will explore world regions and study the unique art and architecture that defines modern day civilizations. From Picasso to Hiroshige, participants will learn the fundamental concepts of art, how to look at and evaluate art, and the intended function of art museums through hands-on activities, discussions, written assignments, and objective assessments.</p>