

2019-2020 Weddington Middle School Related Arts Course Descriptions

Automation and Robotics 8th grade: Students trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Students use the VEX Robotics platform to design, build and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, toll booths, and robotic arms.

Art (7th and 8th Grades): This course utilizes various approaches to creating art as new processes and techniques are introduced, including printmaking, sculpting, mixed media, ceramics, and computer graphics. Notes from class, sketches and reflective views about art are journalized.

Year-Long Band (7th and 8th Grades): This is a year-long concert band class comprised of students with at least one to two years of previous experience on a band instrument. Students are expected to already know basic tone production, music reading, and several scales. Students should already own a band instrument that is in good playing condition.

Computer Skills (7th grade): Students will LEARN the touch method in operating a keyboard and explore computer systems. Students will learn the basics of Microsoft Office products: MS Word, MS Excel, and MS PowerPoint. Students will learn the beginning basics of computer programming through code.org, an interactive and educational computer programming software system.

Computer Science Discoveries 7th grade: This course is designed to introduce students to the fundamentals of modern computer science using Game Salad. It covers a broad range of foundational topics including programming, algorithms, object-oriented design, user interface design, functions, animations, looping, physics, mathematical expressions, security, and societal impacts of computing. Computational thinking practices are used continually throughout the class in a number of ways.

Computer Science Discoveries 8th grade: This course will introduce students to visual programming, physics game design, coding with STEM subjects and text programming with Python and JavaScript using Tynker. Students will build multi-level games, use cloning to create actors, use complex conditional logic, understand parallelism with multiple scripts, build algorithms using complex conditional logic and publish projects to the Web. They will learn to troubleshoot and debug problems.

Design and Modeling- Robotics 7th grade: Students discover the design process and develop an understanding of the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They are then challenged and empowered to use and apply what they have learned throughout the unit to design a therapeutic toy for a child who has cerebral palsy.

Drama (7th and 8th Grades): Drama students will build acting skills by developing their voice, improvisation and characterization. We discuss special topics such as mime, pantomime, clowning and storytelling. Students learn about musical theatre, the anatomy of an audition process and rehearse/perform an in-class play.

Journalism-Yearbook/Morning Broadcast (8th grade only): This is a semester-long course in which students are pre-selected through an application process. Dedication to the completion of the yearbook, morning broadcast, and video projects that benefit the student body is a requirement. Students will learn marketing skills through the yearbook advertising process. Students will also learn basic business skills as the class operates as a small business. Students can get applications from Ms. Young.

Journalism- Public Relations (8th grade only): This is a semester-long course in which students will learn the principals of public relations at the novice level through developing Public Service Announcements (PSA) and videos. This class will create the first edition of the WMS newspaper.

Musical Theater (7th and 8th Grades): This semester-long course is open to any 7th and 8th grader who enjoys singing, dancing, acting and performing. This course will explore all aspects of musical theater; from “behind the scenes” work to singing, dancing and acting on stage.

Show Choir (7th and 8th Grades): This semester-long course is open to any 7th and 8th grader who enjoys singing. This course will focus on vocal techniques, vocal music and vocal exercises to improve tone quality, range and musicality.

Spanish (7th Grade): This semester-long course is an introduction to the study of a second language in which students will acquire the language through the 4 modes of communication (speaking, listening, writing, and reading). Culture, geography, and grammar are also introduced to students in this class. This course is considered an introduction to the year-long course in 8th grade.

Year-Long Spanish (8th Grade-Teacher approval required): Students will focus on speaking and writing at the Novice Low level, while completing various dialogues, monologues, projects and other assessments. Regular homework completion and daily participation in in-class activities are expected. Students will receive high school credit for Spanish 1 with successful completion of the course.

Students who are interested in the class below will still need to select two related arts classes during on-line registration in case they are not selected. PAL (Peer-assisted learning) Helpers (open to rising 7th and 8th grade students only) – Students will be pre-selected through an application process. Students will assist either in either Ms. Johnson’s or Ms. Palarino’s class, working with students with varying disabilities. This is a Pass/Fail class. **Students may get applications in the counseling office.**