



Muscatel Middle School Elective Course Descriptions 2020-2021

20th Century History

Quarter-Long Wheel (Computer Concepts/Public Speaking/Money Management)

Prerequisites: None

Did you know that World War III nearly started almost sixty years ago during the Cuban Missile Crisis? The purpose of this course is to present to you important facts and key events that changed America and the world in the twentieth century, which you will also learn later in world history (10th grade) and US History (11th grade), In addition, we will watch video clips and movies that pertain to the topics of this course.

Advanced Band (Woodwinds, Brass and Percussion)

Year-Long Elective

Prerequisites: 8th grade students with at least one year of experience on a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument

The Advanced Band class meets for the entire school year and is for students who have had one year or more on a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument. The Advanced Band performs throughout the school year and participates in many events.

Associated Student Body (ASB)

Year-Long Elective

Prerequisites: Completed Application

ASB is a representative group of Muscatel Middle School students who communicate and interact with the student body to create and uphold a positive school environment by hosting activities, determining funds, enhancing school spirit, and contributing to a positive, student-centered school culture. ASB is in charge of coordinating the planning, action and evaluation of all student campus activities. These activities include, but are not limited to; school dances, fundraisers, assemblies, campus spirit, lunch time activities, spirit/dress up days, and communication of events.

AVID—Advancement Via Individual Determination

Year-Long Elective

Prerequisites: Completed Application and Interview

AVID stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination and is designed to prepare self-determined students for college and career readiness. The AVID Elective class is designed to support students in school as the academic work becomes more rigorous. Students will learn organizational and study skills, develop critical thinking, learn to ask probing questions, receive academic help from peers and college tutors, and participate in enrichment and motivational activities to make their college dreams a reality. AVID students are supportive of each other and tend to be leaders within the community.

Beginning Band (Woodwinds, Brass and Percussion)

Year-Long Elective

Prerequisites: None

The Beginning Band class is for the true beginner and is for the entire school year. Instruments taught in this class include: flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, baritone horn, trombone, tuba and percussion. Instruments and music are provided free of charge and being part of the beginning band will be an experience you shall never forget.

Beginning Strings (Violin, Viola and Cello)

Year-Long Elective

Prerequisites: None

The Beginning Strings class is also for beginning students who would like to play violin, viola or cello. Instruments and music are also provided free of charge and if you have ever been curious about how a string orchestra functions this is the class for you! Being part of an ensemble (group) and working together is important in building self-esteem and confidence.

Botany

Semester-Long Elective (Music Appreciation)

Prerequisites: None

Plants are amazing! To truly appreciate their beauty and how ingenious they are, we will study why plants are important to all living things. You will learn how to paint with watercolors so you can capture their beauty. Examine their inside structure under a microscope to understand how they are built and explore their unique adaptations to different environments through hands-on projects and experiments. Let's get your hands dirty and learn how to grow and care for your own plants. Botanists get ready to grow flowers, vegetables, and your very own fruit tree.

Computer Concepts

Quarter-Long Elective (20th Century History/Public Speaking/Money Management)

Prerequisites: None

Whether you are computer savvy or not, this course is for you! The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the basics of computer programming. As students explore and create with Scratch, Code.org and Sphero Education, they will build problem-solving skills, while understanding how computers affect our daily lives. Students will also build their keyboarding skills, create a simple website, explore using QR codes, and utilize collaborative learning as they complete projects.

Drama/Theater

Year-Long Elective

Prerequisites: None

Students have opportunity to express themselves while developing acting skills. In this course, key elements of theatre are introduced by group drama games, monologues, memorized scene work, improvisation, and the technical world of the theater such as stage design, lighting and sound. Throughout the semester there will be opportunities for students to showcase their talents in performances both in and out of the classroom.

Environmental Science

Quarter-Long Elective (We the People/STEAM/Visual Art)

Prerequisites: None

Environmental Science is a quarter-long elective class in which students will get to investigate concepts related to environmental science through investigations and projects. Topics will include the earth's ecosystems and biodiversity, global warming and climate change, as well as energy resources and recycling. The ultimate goal of this class is to make each and every student realize how to help make our planet more sustainable for future generations to come.

Money Management

Quarter-Long Elective (20th Century History/Computer Concepts/Public Speaking)

Prerequisites: None

Money management/personal finance is a course designed to help students understand the impact of individual choices on occupational goals and future earning potential. Topics covered will include income, money management, spending and credit, as well as saving and investing. Students will design personal and household budgets, simulate use of checking and savings accounts, demonstrate knowledge of finance, debt, and credit management, and evaluate and understand insurance and taxes. This course will provide a foundational understanding for making informed personal financial decisions.

Music Appreciation (Guitar and Recorder)

Semester-Long Elective (Botany)

Prerequisites: None

This class focuses on music history and music theory. Students enrolling in this course will also have the opportunity to learn to play the recorder and guitar. This class is for a beginning music student.

Public Speaking

Quarter-Long Elective (20th Century History/Computer Concepts/Money Management)

Prerequisites: None

Do your hands start to sweat when you hear the words "public speaking?" If so, then this is the class for you! Learn to conquer your fears in this lively and supportive class. Although the main goal of the class is to improve students' oral communication skills, you will also have the chance to explore topics such as understanding your learning style and which careers may be a good match based on your personality. We also explore the language arts standards of persuasion and poetry in a fun and fresh way by examining advertisements and musical lyrics.

Sports Academy

Semester-Long Elective (Taekwondo)

Prerequisites: None

Sports Academy is an elective class that introduces students to all kinds of team and individual sports. There is also a small nutrition component to the class. Students will hone their skills in a variety of sports that they have never been introduced to before. This class has a huge emphasis on having FUN! Some of the sports and games we will be playing are: Track and Field, Lacrosse, Badminton, Paddle Tennis, Softball, Football, Basketball, Street Hockey, Capture The Flag, Golf, Relays Students will be able to choose the sports they would like to improve on every week. Not only will you be learning various sports/games, you will build lasting relationships with other students. We become a very cohesive unit and we have a really great time! If you want to have fun in the sun, sign up for this class.

STEAM

Quarter-Long Elective (Environmental Science/We the People/STEAM/Visual Art)

Prerequisites: None

In this elective, students will participate in the Quest for Space program. They will wire breadboards, block code with Lego Mindstorm software, and build out experiments that will teach them about radiation, convection, conduction, and humidity.

Taekwondo (Martial Arts)

Semester-Long Elective (Sports Academy)

Prerequisites: None

The Beginning Taekwondo course is a comprehensive introductory overview meant for students of all levels and physical ability. Aspects of health, self-defense, basic techniques (kicking blocks, and punches), Taekwondo's history and philosophy, and self-development are integrated into the curriculum to enhance the student experience beyond physical practice.

Visual Arts

Quarter-Long Elective (Environmental Science/We the People/STEAM)

Prerequisites: None

The visual arts course is for 7th and 8th grade students. The course teaches the fundamentals of visual arts through drawing, painting, sculpting, and other media. Students develop their own creative works while learning about the elements and principles of art and how to work with various mediums. Students learn about the connections between what they have learned and career opportunities in the arts.

We the People

Quarter-Long Elective (Environmental Science/Visual Art/STEAM)

Prerequisites: None

Students enrolling in We the People will examine the United States Constitution and focus on specific aspects of the document, including the following topics:

When, where, why, and how was the United States Constitution written? How have the protections found in the Bill of Rights (first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution) been developed and expanded? What is due process of law, and how does it shape and impact the lives of everyone in the United States, both young and old. How does a free press contribute to a democratic society in the United States? What are the roles and responsibilities of an individual living in a free and democratic society?

Yearbook

Year-Long Elective

Prerequisites: Completed application and teacher recommendation

Every year exciting things happen at our school and the yearbook makes sure each event is remembered forever! Learn valuable skills such as photography, graphic design, sales, accounting, interviewing and much more. We are looking for students who are responsible, self-motivated, and not afraid to interact with others. Yearbook is a yearlong elective with both 7th and 8th grade students who complete not only the yearbook but other fun projects throughout the year. No previous experience required. Sign up today!