



2024-2025

8th GRADE ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Electives are offered based on student request and space availability

Advanced Art (Year-long) – **You must have had the 1st year Art class with a passing grade of a C or better, or you can be approved by Mr. Cox to take this class if you have some art experience.** This class explores art more in depth through several different media. Learning will occur through a variety of media, including clay, sculpture, painting, ceramics, mosaic, and drawing. This course will provide opportunities for the student to have an advanced experience in art thru discussion and exploration, that emphasizes art perception, creative expression (making art), art history (looking at art), aesthetic valuing (analyzing and judging artwork), talking art as well.

Art (Year-long) - This class explores art through several different media. This course will provide opportunities for students to experience art through guided experiences, discussion, and exploration that emphasize art. Learning will occur through a variety of media, including sculpture, painting, animation, color theory, and drawing. You don't need any art experience or talent; you just have to be willing to try.

Cross-Age Tutoring (Year-long) – Cross-Age Tutors will have the opportunity to assist teachers at Stone Ranch Elementary. We make the 20-minute walk there and back. Tutors are assigned to a specific elementary teacher where they may be responsible for helping teachers and students. We believe that being a tutor is a privilege and an honor. We expect our students to be role models the moment we step outside our campus.

Exploratory Technology (Semester1-2) – Students enrolled in this elective will explore mixed media and photography each Semester.

- **Design in Mixed Media (Sculpture and Design)** – This course is for students who have interests in building, wood design, mosaic, bead making, and two- and three-dimensional design sculpture. Students will have an opportunity to produce, view, discuss, and analyze a variety of art works using various tools, materials, and media (clay, sculpture, painting, ceramics, mosaic, and drawing). The class will explore design elements, composition, and principles including line, color, form, space, and texture.
- **Digital Photography** – In this course, students will dive into the exciting world of visual storytelling through hands-on, creative assignments that explore various compositional techniques. From rule of thirds, perspective, leading lines, etc., students will learn how to make their images visually compelling while adhering to the standards of great photography! Students will learn the basics of using a digital SLR camera to produce aesthetically pleasing and technically sound images.

Gateway to Technology - Design & Modeling (Year-long) – This course provides students opportunities to discover the design process and develop an understanding of the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. Students learn and utilize problem-solving methods for communicating design ideas through sketches, solid models, CAD designs, and mathematical models. Students will understand how models can be simulated to represent an authentic situation and generate data for further analysis and observations. Students may work in teams or individually to identify design requirements, research the topic, and engage stakeholders. Projects engage students from fabricating and testing, and making necessary modifications to optimize a design solution to a variety of problems.

Gateway to Technology - Medical Detectives/Flight & Space (Year-long) - Do you want to grow up and be a doctor? How about the first colonist on Mars? In the first half of the year, we will learn how to analyze data, diagnose various diseases, learn about the nervous system, and track down the origin of an outbreak of disease. In the second half of the year, we will learn all about the history and mechanics of flight, space travel, and plan a mission to Mars, where you must choose a crew and figure out how to land them safely on the surface of Mars.

Intermediate Chorus - 7th/8th (Year-long) - Students will continue developing the skills taught in Beginning Chorus extending into a more difficult musical repertoire. Students with no previous singing experience are welcome.

Intro to Digital Photography (Year-long) – Students will explore the exciting world of visual storytelling through hands-on, creative assignments that explore various compositional techniques. The class focuses on understanding the basic operations and functions of a digital SLR camera and the use of its settings to achieve a specific photographic result. Students will also learn about the photographic elements of art and principles of design, composition, and lighting. Get ready to capture the world in a whole new way and unleash your creative potential!

Orchestra 2 (Year-long) - Orchestra is a performance class and is designed for the **stringed-instrument** student. The group will play a variety of string orchestra music and perform at school concerts and festivals.

Spanish 1-2 (Semester 1 & 2) - Spanish 1-2 is a beginning course, which develops the four communication skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing with basic vocabulary, grammar, and idiomatic expressions. Oral and written activities, both individually and in groups, provide practice to develop these skills. This course will NOT earn credits toward high school graduation.

Teacher Assistant/TA (Year-long) – Assist a specific classroom teacher or staff member (office/library/cafeteria) with clerical responsibilities. Space is limited and it may not work with a student's schedule.

Wind Ensemble - Band (Year-long) - Band is a yearlong performance class and is designed for the **wind and percussion instrument** student. The band will play a variety of music and perform at school concerts and festivals. Instruments include flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, sax, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, tuba, percussion (drums/mallets).