

**GRADE 8 - ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS  
2018 - 2019**

**ART 7/8**

**1 semester**

If you want to improve your sketching and painting techniques, enjoy working in clay, and would love to learn more about sculpting and printing, then this class is for you! This course is designed to encourage students to build self-confidence and discover their own personal artistic abilities while closely studying the great artists of the world. There are two separate components of art within our program. Students may take one semester of Art in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and one semester of Art in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. There are fees associated with the projects that the students take home.

**ASSISTANT: LIBRARY, CLASSROOM AND OFFICE**

**1 semester**

Students are assigned to “work experience” positions with the office, library, gym or a classroom teacher. Each position requires students to be responsible for a variety of tasks on a daily basis. Excellent attendance and grades are required.

**AVID 7/8 (Advancement via Individual Determination)**

**1 year**

AVID is a middle school through high school program to prepare underserved students for four-year college eligibility. Emphasis will be on writing and note-taking as tools of learning, inquiry method and collaborative grouping. The four main components of the program are academic instruction, tutorial support, college visitations and motivational activities. AVID is a regularly scheduled elective class that is intended to challenge students and prepare them for college and beyond. Preparation for success in middle school and high school is a priority.

**COMPUTER APPLICATIONS and ROBOTICS 7/8**

**1 semester**

Students will continue to develop skills established in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade introductory course. With an emphasis on multimedia, the students will use advanced programs related to photo editing, movie making, audio and music editing, 3-dimensional design, and coding to create relevant and exciting projects and works of art. For those that are interested, there will be opportunities to explore Robotics along with the option to work on “Special” projects or areas of particular technology interests. There will also be a consistent focus on typing, digital citizenship, cloud computing, and knowledge of technology, its parts, and how it works.

**CRAFTS 7/8**

**1 semester**

This course is designed in connection with the World Geography curriculum and investigates three-dimensional art forms. Students will be working with paper maché, clay, fabric, paint and other materials in a variety of craft projects. This is a very “hands-on” course and will help the student better understand the world through the study of each culture’s art, music, dance and drama. There are two separate components of crafts within our program. Students may take one semester of Crafts in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and one semester of Crafts in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. There are fees associated with projects that students take home.

**ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE**

**1 semester**

Horticulture is the art and science of growing plants, both edible and ornamental. This class will be a hands-on experience in developing and maintaining a vegetable garden on our campus. The instructor will present lessons on soil preparation, seeds and planting, plant life cycles, the garden habitat, harvesting, composting, from farm to table nutrition, and food around the world.

**HOME ARTS**

**1 semester**

This one-semester class is open to both 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Students will have an opportunity to use a sewing machine to learn basic sewing skills and construct a project, which traditionally has been a stuffed animal or sports ball. They will also work in small groups for a variety of cooking experiences using microwave ovens, conventional ovens, and blenders. Students will learn about nutrition and kitchen and food safety. There are fees associated with the projects that students take home.

**INDUSTRIAL & ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGY**

**1 semester**

This course is designed for students who would like to explore different areas of technology found in today’s world. It is intended to provide an awareness of material processes and industrial concepts by allowing students to complete various lab exercises. Projects and activities in the metals area will incorporate the use of sheet metal equipment, MIG welding and other metal forming tools and machines. The other part of the class gives an introduction to basic electricity and electronics through the use of soldering electronic parts and kits, robotics exploration, and an introduction to drone technology. **This is a hands-on class and students are required to wear safety glasses while in the lab.** There are fees associated with projects that students take home. Due to unforeseen equipment failures, material shortages, and/or curriculum standards, the type and number of projects can vary or change.

**ASSOCIATED STUDENT BODY (ASB)/LEADERSHIP**

**1 semester**

Students in this class become a very important part of Balboa’s student body as they work on activities for all students. Their efforts help determine the atmosphere at Balboa. Students are expected to set a positive example for others as they work to develop responsibility, initiative, leadership and school pride. This class requires extra effort and extra time beyond regular class time.

**Note: Special application form and teacher approval required. To be considered, all students must have received a “C” or greater in each class from the previous semester. Good citizenship is also required.**

**SPANISH I****1 year**

This course aims to develop students' ability to understand, speak, read and write Spanish within the limits of the material studied. The students will develop the listening and speaking skills necessary for effective Spanish communication. This is a high school level course with weekly tests and quizzes designed for students with no prior knowledge of Spanish. Cultural insights and appreciation of Spanish-speaking countries are acquired as an integral part of the language-learning experience. An emphasis is on oral communication and practice at home is regularly required.

**WOOD 7/8****1 semester**

This course introduces students to the basics of woodworking. The proper and safe usage of hand and power tools will be emphasized and enforced. All students will be required to pass a computer-generated safety test on each piece of woodworking equipment used in the lab. Students have the opportunity to use the following woodworking machines: drill press, band saw, jig (scroll) saw, belt and disc sander, router/shaper table, and wood lathe. We are also fortunate enough to have a CNC (computer controlled) wood lathe and router for students to gain experience. Upon completion of instruction on hand and power tool safety and usage, each student will construct between three to five required lab projects. Students must wear safety glasses in the lab. There are fees associated with projects that students take home. Due to unforeseen equipment failures, material shortages, and/or curriculum guidelines, the type and number of projects can vary or change.

**YEARBOOK****1 semester**

The yearbook class is primarily responsible for the school yearbook. The book is written and pictures are digitally photographed by the yearbook staff. Staff positions are open to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, by application, teacher recommendation and counselor approval. Desirable yearbook staff qualifications include the willingness to give and receive feedback, the ability to follow through and complete responsibilities in a timely manner, a commitment to quality, using personal time to accomplish assigned tasks, and the flexibility necessary to work in a team. Students must feel comfortable learning and applying cutting edge digital and internet-based technology. Beyond the yearbook, the class is responsible for the DVD yearbook, the newspaper (The Balboa Times), a weekly newscast, a monthly video newscast, and a digital magazine. This class is run like a business with a student leader (CEO), managers, and workers. Participants in this class will have a major impact on the Balboa community.

**BEGINNING BAND****1 year**

Beginning Band is a year-long musical ensemble open to all students who desire to learn a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument. Emphasis in this course is placed on teaching basic instrumental skills and music reading through a sequential and standards-based approach to music education. Our hope is that students will advance into higher-level ensembles. This group performs 3-5 times per year. Attendance at all performances is mandatory.

**BEGINNING STRINGS****1 year**

Beginning Strings is a year-long musical ensemble open to all students who desire to learn the violin, viola, cello or string bass. Emphasis in this course is placed on teaching basic string orchestra instrumental skills and music reading through a sequential and standards-based approach to music education. Our hope is that students will advance into higher-level ensembles. This group performs three times per year. Attendance at all performances is mandatory.

**CHORUS****1 year**

Chorus is a year-long musical ensemble open to all students who enjoy and/or would like to learn how to sing. Its purpose is to develop a positive attitude in choral music and an understanding of group singing. Students will develop skills in ensemble singing and an understanding of the nature, structure, and meaning of music. A large focus of the course is on the development of basic to intermediate music skills with an emphasis on performing choral literature of various styles. The chorus may perform in school/community programs and may represent the school in choral festivals. Attendance at all performances is mandatory.

**CONCERT BAND****1 year**

Prerequisite: Participation in either elementary or middle school band for at least one year and/or consent of the instructor. Concert Band is a year-long musical ensemble for intermediate/advanced musicians. Emphasis in this course is placed on tone, technique, and development of musicianship. Our hope is that students will advance into a higher-level of musicianship. This group performs at festivals and concerts of various types at various times throughout the year. Attendance at all performances is mandatory.

**STRING ORCHESTRA****1 year**

Prerequisite: Participation in either elementary or middle school string orchestra for at least one year and/or consent of the instructor. String Orchestra is a year-long instrumental ensemble comprised solely of stringed instruments. Performance repertoire includes varied literature, including contemporary styles. Class activities are designed to continue to develop students' individual and ensemble performance techniques, with emphasis on such aspects as bowing techniques, tone production, intonation, phrasing and expression. This group performs at festivals and concerts of various types at set times throughout the year. Attendance at all performances is mandatory.