

Golden West 8th Grade Elective Course Descriptions

Note: Eighth Grade students choose the equivalent of two year-long electives each year. Semester courses have the (S) after the courses title and year-long courses have the (Y) after the title. Eighth grade students can choose any combination of the following electives. *Electives are not guaranteed and are dependent on teacher and course seat availability. Students must choose one of the following combinations of electives:

- 2-year-long electives

or

- 2-semester electives and 1-year long elective

or

- 4-semester electives

Visual and Performing Arts

Art (S)

This course covers a wide variety of artistic features – drawing, painting, sculpture and more. Students will tap into their own culture and heritage and learn how artists throughout history have created art. Students will learn to use a variety of art materials, including Acrylic paint, clay and glazes. All projects will be taken home at the end of each section. Students will be exposed to various components of technology. Students will be provided with the materials to complete the curriculum. Students have the option of paying for the end-of-the-semester project that will be taken home.

Drama (S)

Introduce students to the basic skills and disciplines of acting and performance production. Students will learn techniques related to scene work, monologues, improvisation, movement, stagecraft, blocking, directing, and various aspects production. Participants in the drama elective will also be exposed to and study various plays, basic theater history, and famous playwrights. Throughout the semester, students will apply what they learn by performing individually and in groups in front of audiences both in and outside of the classroom.

Film Lit (S)

Film Lit- We LOVE movies! In this class, students will watch great films featuring fascinating characters whose stories will capture their attention and ignite their imagination. We will discuss how themes in film connect to themes in literature students are reading in their Language Arts class, and to their lives today. Students will practice drama and speech techniques to help them bring characters and their stories to life in our classroom. Finally, students will learn how to critically evaluate a film for merit.

Career Technical Education Courses

Drafting/CADD (S)

Students will be introduced to sketching, lettering, how to measure, how to draw in isometric, oblique, 1, 2 and 3 view drawings, dimensioning. Students shall design and construct a bridge and build and launch a Rocket. CADD (Computer Assisted Drafting/Drawing) will also be introduced. An understanding of fractions and math is essential for this course. Careers in technology will also be explored. This is an excellent stepping-stone for the high school Engineering CADD program.

Wood Technology 8 (S)

Students will be introduced to a variety of basic hand and power hand tools, as well as stationary power tools. Safety will be covered in depth. Students will construct a series of more difficult projects requiring the use of many tools, such as routers, drills, miter saw, table saw, jointer, planer, drill press, jig saw, and sanders, etc. Finishing procedures will also be covered. Upon completion, a project of the student's choice may be made. Emphasis will be placed on Common Core Standards, organization, quality and pride in workmanship. Math, Science, Social Science, and Language Arts skills will be reinforced throughout the course. Students will be provided with the materials to complete the curriculum. Students have the option of paying for projects and materials that will be taken home.

(S) – Semester course (Y) – Year course

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****Performance-Based Music Courses**

Beginning Band (Y)

2021-22 Beginning Band is open to any student who wants to learn a wind or percussion instrument. Wind instruments include Tuba, Euphonium, Trombone, F-Horn, Trumpet, Oboe, Bassoon, Saxophone, Clarinet, or Flute.

Concert Band (Y)

2021-22 Concert Band is for any incoming 6th grade student who is currently in band or completed one year of band as a 5th grader. In addition, current 8th graders who have one year of band in elementary school or middle school (new students) can join Concert Band.

Symphonic Band (Y)

2021-22 Symphonic Band will be 7th/8th grade elective with no audition for current GW Concert Band students. Symphonic Band is for continuing Concert Band students. New 7th or 8th grade students with two or more years of band instruction can audition by sending me a recording of their performance on a band instrument. Students can contact Mr. Honeychurch for more audition information at rhoneychurch@travisusd.org

Jazz Band-(Before School) (Y)

2021-22 Jazz Band will be an 8th grade elective class during the regular school day, this year it's 2nd period. Any 8th grader at GW who is not in GW Band this year will need to audition with me by sending me a video recording of their playing. They can contact me at my email for more audition information. Generally students who are currently in the GW Band program don't have to audition. All Jazz Band students will also be registered for Symphonic Band.

TUSD doesn't have a string program therefore only advanced students wanting to play Double String Bass in Jazz Band and Symphonic Band can audition. Students can contact Mr. Honeychurch for more audition information at rhoneychurch@travisusd.org

****Performances are integral part of the learning process. Dates will be announced at the beginning of the school year. There are some school instruments available for student use. Parents may also rent or buy an instrument.**

Non-Performance-Based Music Courses

Piano (Y) (This course is open to 7th and 8th grade students)

This class is designed for students who want to learn basic piano skills. Students will learn keyboard orientation, hand position, key note names, treble clef, bass clef, grand staff, dynamics, intervals, basic scales, music notation and more. Students will study from the Alfred Basic Piano Library Complete Level 1.

Languages

Spanish 1 (Y)

Students will learn to speak, understand, read and write Spanish and learn about the Hispanic world. Vocabulary units, grammar lessons, chapter quizzes and tests as well as other assignments will prepare students to read, write and speak in Spanish. Based upon semester grades, student performance/academic excellence, and a course exit exam, students may accelerate into the Spanish 2 course at the high school level. This course does not count towards the classes needed for your high school. **Recommended: In order for students to be successful in this class it is strongly recommended that they have a grade of C or higher in English.**

English Language Arts Elective

Poetry and Creative Writing (Y) (Open to 7th and 8th grade)

In this course learn different types of poetry and poetic devices including figurative language, beat, and meter. Students will have exposure to poets and their different techniques. There is an emphasis on Creative Writing in this course. Students will explore different ideas and methods to create stories as well as developing stronger writing skills and learn to use applications such as Story board That.

Health and Physical Education Elective

Fitness for Life (Y)

This course is designed to continue to give students the opportunity to gain personal fitness and lifestyle skills that will encourage students to adopt a healthy way of living. Students will be empowered to make choices, meet challenges, and develop positive behaviors in fitness, wellness, and movement activity for a lifetime. Emphasis is on students learning personal fitness, including health related fitness and wellness concepts, self-assessments, and activities. Units of instruction may include the following: fitness and wellness for all; learning self-management skills; lifestyle physical activity and positive attitudes; components of health-related fitness; choosing nutritious foods; making consumer choices; stress-management and personal program planning. Supplementary units of instruction may include non-traditional sports and games, first-aid, wild survival tips., fitness/sports/recreational careers.

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Information Technology (Y) (This course is open to 7th and 8th grade students.)

Students will acquire 21st century technology skills as they learn more advanced use of applications such as word, excel, Story Board That, and PowerPoint. Students may have already taken Computer Literacy prior to this course, but it is not required.

Computer Programming (Y)

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of computer programming with an emphasis on applications of math concepts and the use of code to control modular robots using the user friendly C/C++ interpreter Ch. Students start with basics of how a computer works and then explore programming in Ch to solve real life problems, including robot control. Students write computer programs with graphical plotting and animation in an integrated development environment (IDE). Through computer programming-based problem solving and engaging activities, such as generating random numbers for applications in math and gaming, and challenges involving tasks for multiple modular robots working together, students develop critical and computational thinking skills. **A grade of “C” or better is required in math and ELA.**

***Application Required Electives**

***Design Publications (Yearbook) (Y)**

In this course students will gain skills in one or more of the following areas: page design, advanced publishing techniques, copy writing, editing and photography while producing a creative, innovative yearbook which records school memories and events. Students gain useful, real world skills in time management, marketing, teamwork, and design principles.

***Robotics (Y) (This course is open to 7th and 8th grade students)**

The Golden West Middle School Robotics teams, the RoboStangs, build and program their own robots to complete a specific task each year. Each team must work together through all stages of the process, from concept designs to competition. Within each team, students will be assigned to particular duties (which can sometimes overlap): designer, builder, programmer, or driver. If selected for the team, **you will be notified and enrolled in the robotics elective**. Robotics ALSO meets for an hour after school 2-3 times a week, therefore students and parents must arrange transportation (there is a late bus when robotics ends for bus riders). All parts, computers, and required materials will be provided to students.

***Leadership (Y) (This course is open to 7th and 8th grade students.)**

Leadership is an activity-based course designed to develop skills in planning, implementing, and evaluating projects for the school and our community as a whole. The goal of this class is to develop student leaders that positively represent the voices of the school, and the community, both on and off campus. Students will develop skills and behaviors of good leadership, including goal setting, time management, communication skills, and self-awareness. These techniques will be studied and applied in a real world setting as students carry out the business of student government, while promoting a positive school environment for all students, through various school projects such as dances, spirit days, rallies, and fundraising events.