

# Medea Creek Middle School

## Elective Descriptions Grades 7/8

### 2020-21

(Not all electives are offered each year)

#### Year-Long Electives (Select One):

**Beginning Band 6/7/8**– This is a class for students who are interested in learning to play a musical instrument. Students may select from flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, tuba or percussion. NO previous experience is necessary to enroll. This class includes a minimum of 1 mandatory evening concert per semester.

**Intermediate Band 7/8- Prerequisite: Teacher approval.** This course is open to those students who have successfully completed Beginning Band. This class includes a minimum of 1 mandatory evening concert per semester.

**Advanced Band 7/8– Prerequisite: Teacher approval.** This group performs at school, festival, and community concerts. This course is open to those students who have achieved the highest level of proficiency on their instrument and who have a basic knowledge of music fundamentals. This class includes a minimum of 1 mandatory evening concert per semester.

**String Orchestra 6/7/8**---musical ensemble open to all playing levels of students on violin, viola, cello or string bass. Emphasis in this course is placed on teaching basic string orchestra instrumental skills and music reading. Students will receive guidance in techniques for producing proper tone, pitch, rhythm, posture, dynamics, and performance at different levels. This class is designed to help build self-esteem (achievement), cooperation (playing in an ensemble), and life skills (practice, study, commitment) through the discipline in learning to play an instrument. Our hope is that students will advance into higher-level ensembles and continue development in our growing high school orchestral program. This class includes a minimum of 1 mandatory evening concert per semester.

**Chorus 7/8**– This is a performance-oriented elective. Students will learn the fundamentals of music, singing technique, and performance etiquette. No previous musical experience is necessary to enroll: Just bring your desire to sing Pop, Broadway, and Choral pieces. This class includes a minimum of 1 mandatory evening concert per semester.

**Spanish I (8<sup>th</sup> grade)**-This is a high school level *academic* class; it is the equivalent to taking (and paced the same) as the first year of Spanish at OPHS. Prerequisites: “B” or better in English 7 & pre. Alg./Algebra 7, OR “B” or better in Intro. to Spanish **AND students must possess a strong work ethic.** Successful completion will put student in Spanish 2 as a freshman at OPHS.

**ASB 7/8**- This class is open to students who have been elected by the student body or appointed through an application process to serve on the Associated Student Body. Students interested in this elective should pick up an application from Mr. White in Room C-8. Students will be placed into this class upon acceptance.

#### Semester Electives (Select Two):

**Intro to Art 7/8**-This is a Fine Art course that introduces the elements and principles of art through a variety of mediums and subject matter. The art room is a studio environment where students learn basic techniques and develop their own voice and style through hands on practice. A portfolio is created by each student.

**Art II 7/8**-Intro to Art is a prerequisite to the Art II course. The elements and principles are further explored through 2-d and 3-d mediums and subject matter. Creativity and individual style are encouraged. A portfolio is created by each student.

**Art Showcase** (8<sup>th</sup> grade)- Intro to Art and Art 2 are pre-requisites for the Showcase class. This is a painting intensive course where the students research a master painter and develop skill in painting through hands on practice. A drawing portfolio (subject matter chosen by student) is also completed through this course.

**New Media Art 7/8**-This course explores a variety of Art and Technology- related careers. Students will use a variety of technologies and software to explore graphic design, photography, and other visual media topics.

**Introductory Spanish 7/8** – An introductory course of the Spanish language where students will build oral and written vocabulary, develop conversational skills, and learn about the culture of the Spanish-speaking world.

**Teen Entrepreneur 7/8**- Students will learn all about entrepreneurship. They will conduct market research and create a fictitious company of their choice. Similar to the T.V. show *Shark Tank*, students will pitch their business concept to "potential investors." Once they receive funding for their company, they will create a logo, prototype, website, commercial, financial statements, and more!

**Animation 7/8**- Students will explore the colorful history and various styles of animation. They will learn how animation works and then use their imagination to create thaumatropes, flip books, stop-motion, live action, and computer-generated animation.

**Beginning Robotics 7/8**- This class is an introduction to the *Lego Mindstorms* EV3 Robotics System. Students practice mechanical design, construction, programming, and teamwork skills. In pairs, using *Lego* building elements, motors and sensors, students build different robots and program them with a computer to move and react while solving and competing in challenges.

**Beginning Computer Programing with Scratch 7/8** - In this class, students will explore how to create games, animations, music videos, stories, and art using Scratch, a computer learning tool that teaches programming skills. Students will also learn the program development process, from conception to beta testing to final product. Students with Scratch experience will be able to create more advanced programs.

**Video Production 7/8**--Students will create a variety of videos, all of different types and genres, using *GarageBand*, *iMovie* and other video and audio production applications. Students will learn both photography and sound techniques needed to create amazing videos. Projects will be done both individually and in groups.

**3D Design - Products and Architecture 7/8**- Explore the internal and external workings of product and building design using 3D design software, including Sketchup and Tinkercad. You will use computer programs to design objects that we will print on our 3D printers. You will also explore architecture and interior design, creating your own buildings and their interiors, including furniture and textures for the floors and the walls.

**Technology For A Greener Future 6/7/8**-- An exploration of how technology can improve our environmental future—and how YOU can be part of that! Get up close with tomorrow's technology that we are using today: From the sustainability modeled in OPUSD, to world-wide breakthroughs, we will learn about environmental solutions to environmental problems that are being tackled by technology! Additionally, we will explore careers in the environmental technology industry as a way to a greener future.

**Gardening Gurus 7/8**: Students learn the fundamentals of gardening (science to instinct) through hands on campus garden projects, labs, technology.

**Environmental Explorers 7/8**-Students explore environmental topics like food, energy, biodiversity, and conservation through a wide range of activities, teamwork, and projects, including hands-on lab investigations, *plus* helping the school to be "greener!"

**History of Sports 7/8**- Through movies, projects and group work, students explore the origins, issues and impact of popular sports in America.

**Drama 7/8** – This course will teach students the fundamentals of the dramatic arts. Students will learn the different aspects of play production. Play production requires a mandatory evening performance.

**Intro to Film 7/8** - This elective course will introduce students to the history of film. This class will cover various types of film, techniques and devices used by filmmakers, and provide an introduction into careers in the film industry. Through movies, students will examine elements of plot, setting, style, and point of view. Class activities include viewing, listening, researching, and analyzing film. Students will also learn how to discuss and write about films critically. This course is designed to increase understanding and appreciation of film as an art form and a means of communication.

**ROCKETS! ROCKETS! ROCKETS! 7/8-** A history of rockets and how they work through hands-on activities learning, building and launching rockets. Cannot be repeated if taken in 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

**WEB Mentors (8<sup>th</sup> grade only)--** WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) 8th graders are peer role models for 6th graders, mentoring and involving students in creating positive traditions and a feeling of connectedness on campus. WEB develops students' leadership skills, focusing on communication, organization and problem solving in order to plan interactive grade level and school wide activities, events and opportunity to enhance school culture. Students must apply and go through an interview process to participate.

**Heroes & Villains 7/8--**What makes a hero? Come examine our favorite heroes from books, TV, movies, comic books & graphic novels! Ancient Greece to fairy tales to King Arthur. Percy, Harry, Bugs & Mickey, Superman & DC, Captain America & Marvel, Luke Skywalker and more. And of course, what is a hero without a villain? Bring a love of reading, projects and adventure!

## **Medea Creek Middle School Elective Descriptions Grade 6 (Not all electives are offered each year)**

### **Semester Electives (the computer selects two):**

**Activities Around The World-**Want to know what different people from around the world do to have fun? In this class students will learn a variety of activities, games, sports and dances from other countries that are fun to do and share with friends. Students may even be able to create and share their own!

**Exploring Your World-The Spanish-Speaking World** - This course is a hands-on introduction to the study of Spanish-speaking culture. Students are involved in learning the language, arts and heritage of the Spanish-speaking world. Lessons are project-based.

**Art 6–** Students will be introduced to the elements and principles of design through art experiences using a variety of media and techniques. Each student will create a personal portfolio of work.

**Tech Investigations 6-** This is a student-centered class wherein students use critical thinking and problem solving skills. Students will use a variety of computer programs and physical simulators in a 21<sup>st</sup> century environment. Some of the projects are: graphic design, publishing, animation, designing, and in some cases printing, 3-D computer models, computer programming, robotics, making stop motion videos, and building models. Students will mostly be working in teams with some independent work.

**Computer Applications 6-**Students will further their knowledge of computer literacy and digital citizenship. They will use iMacs to advance their skills in keyboarding, navigating the Internet, computer programming and using *Google Apps* (word processing, creating spreadsheets, making digital presentations, generating forms and creating a website).

**Technology For A Greener Future 6/7/8-**An exploration of how technology can improve our environmental future—and how YOU can be part of that! Get up close with tomorrow's technology that we are using today: From the sustainability modeled in OPUSD, to world-wide breakthroughs, we will learn about environmental solutions to environmental problems that are being tackled by technology! Additionally, we will explore careers in the environmental technology industry as a way to a greener future.

**ROCKETS! ROCKETS! ROCKETS!-** A history of rockets and how they work through hands-on activities learning, building and launching rockets.

**Environmental Explorers 6-**Students explore environmental topics like food, energy, biodiversity, and conservation through a wide range of activities, teamwork and projects, including hands-on lab investigations, *plus* helping the school to be "greener!"

**Gardening Gurus 6-**Students learn the fundamentals of gardening (science to instinct) through hands on campus garden projects, labs, technology.

**Music Appreciation—**This course introduces music reading, classroom instruments, improvisation and composition. They learn about musical theater, experiencing various works. Study includes various elements of

music such as: sound, pitch dynamics, voices, instruments, rhythm, melody, harmony, and musical form. It will involve different periods, styles, artists, and composers. No previous musical study required.

**Drama 6-** Introduction to dramatic arts; students will be familiar with genres, elements of performance and presentation.

**Year-Long Electives (select one):**

**Chorus-** A vocal music performance class. No experience necessary, just bring your desire to sing Pop, Broadway and Choral pieces. This class includes a minimum requirement of 1 evening performance per semester).

**Beginning Band 6** — This is a class for students who are interested in learning to play a musical instrument. Students may select from flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, tuba or percussion. NO previous experience is necessary to enroll. This class includes a minimum of 1 mandatory evening performance per semester.

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**ASB 6**-This class is for students who are interested in developing leadership skills through planning school wide and spirit events, DJ Friday's, fundraisers and school dances. This is a year-long course. Students interested in this elective should see their 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher for an application. ***Students will be programmed into this class if accepted.***