

West Jefferson Middle School
2017/18 8th grade Electives - Course Descriptions

Art 8 (Trimester)

Art 8 will cover art history, as well as drawing, painting, print making, clay and potter's wheel. Sketchbook included with fee.

Creative Art – Sculpture/Jewelry (Trimester)

Creative Art – Sculpture/Jewelry courses cover the same topics as Visual Arts Level 1-3 courses, but focus on creating three dimensional works. Students typically work with several media (such as clay, ceramics, wood, metals, textiles, and so on), but some courses focus only on one medium.

Choir (Trimester)

In this course, students will be provided an opportunity to participate fully in all the aspects of vocal ensemble.

- Students will develop skills in vocal production, choral singing, care of the voice, reading rhythms, and pitches. In addition, they will learn “solfege”, sight-singing, ear-training, posture, choreography, and prepare for performances on stage.
- There will be required performances outside school hours at outside locations.

Computer Graphics (Trimester)

Computer Graphics courses provide the opportunity for students to explore the capability of the computer to produce visual imagery and to apply graphic techniques to various fields, such as advertising, TV/video, and architecture. Typical course topics may include modeling, simulation, animation, and image retouching.

Musical Theatre (Trimester)

In this course, students will explore different musical styles, genres, and periods with the intent of building appreciation for a wide range of music. Using Garage Band and other technological enhancements, students will focus on developing their artistic and technical judgment and style.

Computer Applications (Trimester)

Students acquire knowledge of and experience in the proper and efficient use of previously written software packages. This course explores a wide range of applications, including (but not limited to) word-processing, spreadsheet, graphics, and database programs, and they may also cover the use of electronic mail and desktop publishing.

Digital Design I (Trimester)

In Digital Design I students make projects and solve problems in web design, game programming, 3D modeling, photo manipulation, and audio production. Students will learn about professional practices and explore college and career paths in these areas, which might include class visits from current professionals. This course can also include a student portfolio of digital work showing their creativity and problem-solving skill.

Instrumental Music - Band

Symphonic Band is a class for advanced instrumentalists who have had at least one year experience on their instruments. Emphasis will be on literature and growth in technical skill. There will be required evening performances at WJMS.

Instrumental Music - Orchestra

This is a class for advanced instrumentalists who have had at least one year experience on their instruments. Emphasis will be on literature and growth in technical skill. There will be required evening performances at WJMS.

Physical Education (Trimester)

The Physical Education program is designed to develop and enhance a wide variety of physical skills and activities, along with increasing overall fitness levels including: cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength, muscular endurance, agility, flexibility, and motor coordination. This class will also help develop a positive attitude toward physical activity, help create a positive self-image, increase cognitive knowledge of health related fitness, promote teamwork, and encourage good sportsmanship. Students are expected to wear the required WJMS P.E. uniform and be prepared to fully participate on a daily basis.

Pre-Engineering 8 (Trimester)

Pre-Engineering students will explore technology-oriented applications of mathematics and science their study of design and the production process. Students will also use critical thinking skills to plan and conduct research, manage projects, solve problems and investigate future careers in technology and engineering.

Robotics (Trimester)

Robotics courses develop and expand students' skills and knowledge so that they can design and develop robotic devices. Topics covered in the course may include mechanics, electrical and motor controls, pneumatics, computer basics, and programmable logic controllers.

Broadcast Technology (Trimester)

This hands-on class will provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to produce media broadcast programs. The students will prepare and produce short programs while learning the technical aspects of the operation and how to evaluate programming and assess audience reaction and impact.

Publication Production: Yearbook – Must fill out application form (2 Trimesters)

Publication Production courses provide to students the knowledge and skills necessary to produce the school yearbook. Students may gain experience in several components (writing, editing, layout, production) or may focus on a single aspect while producing the publication.

Mentorship (Trimester) – Must fill out application form

This elective teaches group problem-solving and strategies for helping make lasting connections between students with and without disabilities in the school community. It may also be used as a class that focuses on developing leadership skills, and organizing school-wide activities, and activities which model positive, respectful and extraordinary behavior.

West Jefferson Middle School reserves the right to change course offerings based on enrollment and staffing.