

West Jefferson Middle School
2022/23 8th grade Electives - Course Descriptions

Student Name _____ (Please Print First/Last Name)

Number your choices 1-9, 1 being your first choice.

Choir (Trimester) 55110G060814(7/8 class)

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.

Graphic Design (Trimester) 55162G060811(8th grade only)

Graphic Design provides students with an understanding of what graphic design is and the work that graphic artists engage in. This course will explore techniques that graphic artists use when creating quality communicative pieces. Students will learn how to visually communicate ideas through the use of typography, layout, photography, illustration, and other visual media. This course will also provide exploration of career opportunities in graphic arts and include the study of significant graphic artists, movements, and styles.

Tech Theatre (Trimester) 55099G060811(7/8 class)

This hands-on course introduces students to the action that goes on “behind the scenes” in a theatrical production. This may include: the specialized vocabulary of technical theatre; ability to analyze and critique the design elements found in school and outside productions; the experience of gaining a practical approach to problem solving, leadership and working well under pressure; and the exposure of students to the history of theatrical design and current trends in technical theatre.

Theatre Arts Intermediate (Trimester) 55052E060811(7/8 class)

Students will study theatre arts, which includes pantomime, monologue, using the voice, stage presence, lighting and sound, and theater history. Students will:

- Develop skills in pantomime and body control.
- Improve voice control in reading projection, articulation and inflection.
- Memorize and perform a monologue and a scene.
- Participate in production of a play as an actor or technician.
- There will be required day and evening performances at WJMS.

Video Game Design I (Trimester) 60203G060831


Students learn how to design, write, and test software using object-oriented software development environments. Students are introduced to the concept of humane game design and explore how computer programs and games can be used to communicate values, ideas, and thoughts. Students explore the idea of game and how this transfers to computers. Students learn how to convert their ideas into visual, audio, and story assets for their game software. Topics covered include fundamental design processes, use of variables in programming, program control and flow features, iterative statements, and incorporating files and graphics into software.

Video Game Design II (Trimester – Upon Completion of Video Game Design I)


Professional software and will include advanced programming and writing of scripts to enhance their video game. This class will build upon the concepts, design fundamentals and programming of Video Design I.

Instrumental Music – Band (Yearlong) 55102G080814, 080824, 080834

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 (Yearlong) 55104G060814, 060824, 060834**

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) 58001G060811**

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.

 **Exploration of Engineering 3 (Trimester) 71001G070814**


Exploration of Engineering 3 provides students the opportunity to apply concepts learned in levels 1 and 2 to larger sustained engineering design challenges across a variety of topics. Career exploration and leadership development will be emphasized throughout the course.

 **Robotics I (Trimester) 71009G060811**

Robotics 1 introduces robotics as an advanced application of computer science that can be used to solve problems in a variety of settings from business to healthcare and how robotics enables innovation by automating processes that may be dangerous or otherwise problematic for humans. Students learn through programming online simulators and a variety of robots. Students design, build, and program physical robots with microcontrollers focused on how robots can be used to solve local and global problems.

 **Visual Art 1 (Trimester) 55154G060811 (7/8 class)**

Visual Arts Level 1 courses provide to students the foundational knowledge and opportunity to explore an art form or variety of art forms and to create individual works of art. These courses may also provide a discussion and exploration of career opportunities in the art world. Initial courses cover language, materials, and processes of a particular art form and the design elements and principles supporting a work of art. Although Visual Arts Level 1 courses focus on creation, they may also include the study of major artists, art movements, and styles.

 **Visual Art 2 (Trimester) Completion of VA1 required 55199G070811 (8th grade only)**


Visual Arts Level 2 courses provide to students the continued building of knowledge and opportunity to continue to explore an art form or variety of art forms and to create individual works of art. Visual Arts Level 2 courses may provide a discussion and exploration of career opportunities in the art world. VSA2 courses may cover the specific language, materials, and processes of particular art forms and the design elements and principles supporting a work of art. The students at VSA2 are advanced from VSA1 and have become more adept, the instruction regarding the creative process becomes more refined, and students are encouraged to develop their own artistic styles. Although VSA2 courses focus on creation, they may also include the study of major artists, art movements, and styles.

 **Creative Art – Sculpture (Trimester) 55158G060811(Art 6 or VA1 pre-requisite) (7/8 class)**

Creative Art – Sculpture/3D 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.

 **Publication Prod: Yearbook (Trimester) 61104G060814 (7/8 class)**

Publication Production courses provide students the opportunity to explore careers in Journalism. Knowledge and skills gained by production of the school yearbook. Students gain experience in several components including reporting, editing, graphic design, production, photography, management, distribution and may focus on a single aspect while producing the publication.

 **Publication Prod: Newspaper (Available 1 or 2 trimesters) 61104G070814, 0824) (7/8 class)**

Publication Production courses provide students the opportunity to explore careers in Journalism. Knowledge and skills gained by production of the school newspaper or other printed publication. Students gain experience in several components including reporting, editing, graphic design, production, photography, management, distribution and may focus on a single aspect while producing the publication.



Online Spanish or French offered through JVA - Enrollment based on space availability at JVA (Yearlong) (8th grade only)

These courses award high school credit upon successful completion. Spanish or French provides students with a general introduction to the language and culture, including sound system, pronunciation, functional vocabulary, cultural information and norms, and basic grammatical structures. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to provide basic information, understand simple statements and questions, and interact with and be understood with difficulty by someone accustomed to a language learner (novice-mid proficiency).



GT Elective (ALP/GT Students) 72999E060811

Students choose projects, which may take many forms, and complete them under the supervision of a teacher. Projects involve planning, research, and a high degree of personal reflection. This class provides opportunities for independent, high achieving learners to explore areas of interest. This is a participatory class where students will be engaged in higher level thinking and autonomous learning. The research process, project design and development, and presentation techniques go beyond scope of conventional learning.

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