Trojans

2023-2024

Course Descriptions

Grades 7-8

Seven Period Day

We have 7 periods a day with an average 47 min per day, 5 days a week.

Homeroom

Homeroom is attached to first period with some extra minutes allotted each day. This is where we make school announcements, say the Pledge of allegiance, and distribute flyers. This also allows time for teachers and students to look at Skyward together, clean lockers, and have special assemblies. These activities help students stay organized and celebrate student success in academics and athletics.

Core Classes

Science for 7-8th Grade Students

All students are enrolled in science year-round for 1 period, averaging 47 min per day, 5 days a week. With the challenging new NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards), this is critical to student success. In addition to Science, students may choose from our science electives such as Lego robotics, medical careers, project-based learning, and horticulture.

Social Studies for 7-8th Students

At the 7th-8th grade levels, students take one semester each year: 7th grade takes Social Studies and 8th Grade takes WA State History. Social Studies is also integrated through reading, writing and presenting about Social Studies topics in their ELA and Reading Support classes.

CORE Math and ELA for 7-8th Grade Students

Most students in 7th and 8th grade take two periods of math and one period of ELA. Students who consistently demonstrate on or above level performance on the SBA, classroom and district assessments in ELA and/or Math, take one class of ELA and one class of Math, averaging 47 min per day in each subject.

Opportunities for Advanced ELA Class

Students in Grades 7-8 who qualify for advanced ELA take one period of advanced ELA rather than general ELA. They work at a faster pace and work with more challenging text. To qualify for advanced ELA, students must consistently perform at a high level on the SBA, school wide assessments (iReady), and in -class assignments.

Opportunities for Advanced Math Class

Students in Grades 7-8 who qualify for advanced math take one period of advanced math rather than general math. They work at a faster pace and cover more material. To qualify for advanced math, students must consistently perform at a high level on the SBA, in- class assignments and on school wide assessments (iReady). Depending on the grade level, these courses are Pre-Algebra, Algebra, or Geometry. Algebra and Geometry are eligible for high school credit.

Reading Support for 7/8th Grade Students:

Students needing Reading support are with their ELA teacher for 1 period and a specialized Reading teacher for the second period. These specialized Reading classes are very small, and do explicit, targeted instruction with students based on their assessed need.

ELECTIVES

YEAR LONG OPTIONS

Trojan Band: (Advanced-by approval, All-Year):
This is an ensemble for more advanced young musicians in the 6th-8th grade. Students will be enrolled in this ensemble based on approval and /or audition, as this class is for more advanced players. This class will move beyond foundational elements of music reading and performance and teach into the more subtle elements of musical performance and production. The students in this ensemble will participate in required quarterly concerts and seasonal parades as well as state festivals. Students from this ensemble will also be invited to participate in Solo and Ensemble competitions and will be given other opportunities for performance as well. Students coming into this class will need to purchase a low-cost methods book and rent or purchase an instrument for their own use within the class. The school does have a LIMITED number of instruments available for students who cannot afford to purchase or rent their own instrument.

7/8 choir (One Semester or All Year)
This choir will focus on singing a variety of music styles prominent in the choral world today. Students will continue to learn music notation, rhythm, as well as learn how to read sheet music. Students will continue to develop part independence and sing in a variety of 2 and 3-part music. There will be an evening concert near the end of each quarter.

LEGO Team (All Year)
Students must have teacher recommendation/application to be considered for this class. This will give middle school students and their adult coaches the opportunity to work and create together to solve a common problem. Students will research a real-world problem, then create an original solution for that problem, plus design and build a robot using a LEGO® MINDSTORMS® kit with a common set of rules to accomplish "missions" on a playing field. The theme changes each season, requiring teams to be extraordinarily creative. Second Semester will concentrate on using the Tetrix robot. Students will use advanced programming techniques to interact with the next level of complexity. The Programming will be in C or Java like environments.

SEMESTER LONG OPTIONS

7/8th Art Studio (One Semester):
In 7/8th Art Studio we will focus on building the skills and techniques of an artist. We will have 4 core units: realistic drawing and shading, painting and color theory, printmaking, and ceramics.

Advanced Art 7/8 (One Semester):
Advanced Art will start off with reviewing and advancing the skills learned in 7/8th Art Studio and applying those skills to meaningful art. The end of the semester will be a large project that is designed by the student in the media of their choice.

Drama (One Semester):
The course objective is to become familiar with basic drama skills while also becoming comfortable performing and presenting ideas to an audience. Topics covered include: the history of theater, basic stage work, vocal interpretation, characterization, movement, improvisation and pantomime. Students will participate in informal ensemble scenes as well as monologue presentations.

Office/Teacher/Library Aide (By Approval-application required-One Semester):
This course is designed for students who want to assist staff at the school in a variety of areas. Students must maintain outstanding attendance and GPA to be considered for one of these positions..

7/8th Grade Beginning Robotics/CTE (One Semester):

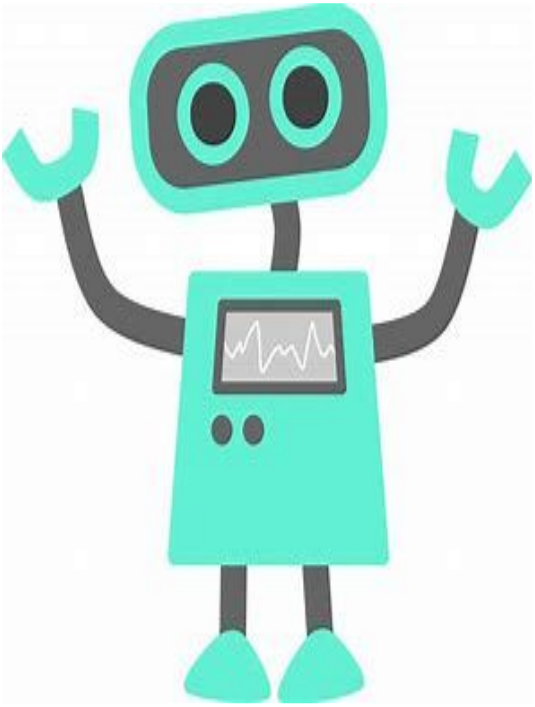
This class will consist of learning how to use the latest Mindstorms EV3 robots and software. This is a very open-ended class, as there is no one correct way to build or program the robots. There are thousands of correct answers to the problems that will be given. It starts with building the robots and learning to program them to simply move and progresses until the student is able to program the robot so that its behavior is being determined by input from the various sensors that are available. We will take a look at programming with variables, nesting switches, value switches, using data hubs with logic as well as numbers or text, more sophisticated types of line followers, as well as the use of gears, shafts, chain drives and universal joints to operate machines the students build to solve problems.

Advanced Robotics (One Semester):

Students will use advanced Programming techniques for their robots to interact with the next level of complexity. We will use programing in C or Java like environments in addition to block programming. We will also use Tetrix and LEGO platforms for robotic challenges.

Digital Creations (One Semester):

7/8 Students will be using technology to make their photos and videos come alive. This introductory course deals with controlling computer technology to produce a variety of Digital Creations. Students will learn computer illustration techniques, image manipulation, animation, and how to use their phones/cameras to produce high quality photos and videos. As students are introduced to various fields in Digital Creations, they will learn and apply the fundamentals of design with various software applications as well as study the language and principles of design.



Medical Careers (One Semester):

This is a semester long introductory course that will explore a variety of medical careers; inclusive of the education, responsibilities, and job outlook of different fields. Science concepts that are the cornerstone of careers in the healthcare profession will be examined; including, but not limited to human anatomy and physiology, biochemistry, genetics, disease transmission, medical terminology and ethics. Students will utilize problem solving skills, the experimental design process and research to diagnose medical issues in fictional patients. This curriculum is student centered to create a learning environment in which each student is able to actively participate in his or her own learning experience.

Science Olympiad (One Semester):

Students will build, design, study subjects from the Science Olympiad challenges for the current year. Topics include forensics, space, anatomy and physiology, optics, etc. Some of the engineering topics have included hovercrafts, towers, mousetrap cars, bottle rockets, and roller coasters. Students work in pairs designing, studying and building solutions to the given problems. There may be an opportunity to join the Woodland Middle School Science Olympiad team and compete for your school. Each team has a limit of 15 members.

Horticulture (One Semester):

Horticulture is a hands-on class that teaches seed germination, plant propagation hydroponics, greenhouse management, garden planning, soil testing, soil treatment, organic gardening, composting, irrigation, and utilization of cover crops. This is done by planting and maintaining a community garden that produces fresh organic produce for the local food bank.

Leadership (By Approval) (One Semester):

Through large and small group activities, students will learn and develop a variety of useful skills as they plan and organize activities for the middle school. Students must fill out an application form to be considered for this class. **Leadership is a requirement for ASB and Class Representatives (schedule permitting).**

Project Based Learning (One Semester):

Project Based Learning is a class in which students will gain knowledge and skills by working on a wide variety of projects. The students will choose the project they feel is relevant and that they have a passion about. They will work for an extended period of time to plan, investigate and respond to an authentic, engaging and complex question, problem, or challenge. Students' projects are focused on learning goals and include Essential Project Design Elements.

7/8th Grade Animation/Alice/CTE (One Semester):

Students will learn the steps in creating animations, and groups of students will create and animate a story of their own. Along the way we will be learning the foundations of programming. We will be using a programming language called Alice that was developed by Carnegie Mellon University to help students learn thinking, problem solving and basic programing ideas as we learn to how to create animated worlds and interactive games.

Weights (One Semester):

Students will explore the principles of strength training through various hands on methods. Fundamental abilities such as strength, flexibility, speed, agility, and explosive power will be taught, practiced, and implemented. Students will also learn the importance of diet as it pertains to goals both sport related, and lifestyle related.

7/8 Additional PE/Team Sports (One Semester):

This class is designed for the student who wants to extend his/her physical education experience to included two semesters worth of PE. Students will get to learn and participate in a variety of games and sports.