

Course Descriptions—8th Grade Electives—2019-2020

App Creators Computer Science—This course exposes students to computer science by computationally analyzing and developing solutions to authentic problems through mobile app development and will convey the positive impact of the application. (Semester)

Art—Art classes in 8th grade may be taken all year or for one semester. The **full year** class focuses on visual art. Students will learn the principles and elements of design, art history related to the elements and principles, as well as social studies in general, and explore 2D and 3D design in various mediums. The **semester** art classes will explore 2D and 3D design. Students will learn various techniques for creating 2D and 3D design and will study the principles and elements of design. Students will study art history from the Renaissance to Contemporary art and apply their knowledge to the various activities and projects.

Athletics—Athletics at Alma Middle School is a competitive, inter-scholastic activity, involving Football, Volleyball, Basketball and Track. Students will be required to meet AAA and AMS rules and regulation concerning eligibility and participation. Students will be expected to attend practices and games during non-school hours such as summer, weekends, after school, etc. Students may be required to try-out in order to be a member of a competitive team. (Meets all year)

Automation and Robotics—7th and 8th grade students trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer controls. Students use the VEX Robotics platform to design, build, and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, toll booths, and robotic arms. (Semester)

Band—8th Grade Band will consist of only 8th Grade students. Participation in Fall & Spring concerts and Band Night is required. Additional activities may be required with advanced notice. (Meets all year)

Choir—Options for 8th grade choir members include Select Choir, 8th grade Girls Choir, and 8th grade Boys Choir. Select Choir is by audition only. Choir directors will place students in appropriate choir. ***It is possible for those students who are in Select Choir to be in either Girls or Boys Choir also.*** Participation in concerts is required. Additional activities may be required with advanced notice. (Meets all year)

Computer Science for Innovators & Makers—This course is designed to teach 7th & 8th grade students about computer science. Students will develop a project by blending hardware programming and software development to promote their awareness of interactive systems and broaden their understanding of abstract computer concepts through meaningful and authentic applications. (Semester)

Dance—This course is open to 7th and 8th grade students interested in learning to dance. It is focused on building strength, flexibility, and self-discipline while exploring the basic principles of various styles of dance. Participation in dance show may be required. (Meets all year)

Drama I—This course is designed for 7th & 8th grade students interested in theatrical arts. Students will be exposed to the basic process of theatre allowing them to explore the art form through voice and movement exercises, theatre games, rudimentary stage terminology, and improvisation. (Semester)

Drama II—Prerequisite—must have taken Drama I. This course is for 7th & 8th grade student. It surveys theatre history, acting, and improvisational skills involved in production. Students explore the relationship between theatre and other art forms. (Semester)

Advanced Drama—Prerequisite & teacher recommendation—must have taken Drama I and have approval by drama teacher. This course will take students to the next level in theatrical arts and performance production. This course meets all year, but students may enter at semester w/ teacher approval and prerequisite.

Introduction to Broadcasting—In this course, 7th and 8th grade students will learn the fundamentals of the TV news industry. The methods of newscast and television production preparation will be discussed in great detail. Students will have the opportunity to learn basic video editing and camera operation while fine tuning their on-camera experience. (Semester)

Introduction to Marketing—This course is a business course which focuses on learning to market products, ideas, and people. The students have the opportunity to join the DECA club which is a club that competes nationally and furthers students' experiences in the business world. (Semester)

Journalism & Broadcasting (KPAWS)—Prerequisite—must have taken Intro to Broadcasting. In this course, 7th and 8th grade students will be responsible for developing the daily news broadcast and school newspaper. Necessary skills include the ability to: write creatively, learn to correctly use media production equipment, and read/speak clearly and fluently on camera. This class meets 2nd period only. Enrollment is limited. (Semester)

Stage Craft—This course is designed for 7th and 8th grade students who are interested in behind the scenes aspects of theater. Students will create props necessary for theatrical performances, including but not limited to costume design and sewing. (Semester)

Yearbook—In this course, 7th and 8th grade students will complete projects and produce the Alma Middle School yearbook. The projects will include graphic design, photography, and article writing to document school events for the school annual. Course work will be completed both inside and outside the classroom, and students may need to attend extracurricular events in order to gather data for the projects: photographs, interviews, etc. Requirements for this course include GPA of 3.0 or higher, writing competency, recommendation from student's Language Arts teacher, and parent signature on the application. (Semester)