

8th Grade Electives

**Fees may be associated with elective courses*

21st CENTURY MEDIA II **Semester course. For 8th grade students who have never taken 21st Media. Students will be using camcorders, tripods, microphones and audio/video editing software to create several video projects. Projects range from professional interviews, music videos, short films, commercials, and more. Continue developing 21st Century skills through project-based learning.*

21st CENTURY MEDIA III **Semester course. Must be enrolled or have passed 21st Century Media II. As an expert in digital media production, you will now be creating videos and news reports for our school newscast. You will have the opportunity to anchor, report, operate studio equipment, edit, and produce a news show that will be seen by the entire school!*

ART II **Semester course. Students will continue their accomplishments/instruction from Art 1 as they work with a variety of processes and materials, such as painting, drawing, sculpture, and ceramic. Students will evaluate their own art and the works of other artists. \$15 supply fee and sketch book required.*

ART III **Semester course. Students must have passed Art II. Students will continue their accomplishments/instruction from Art II as they work with a variety of processes and materials, such as painting, drawing, sculpture, and ceramic. Students will evaluate their own art and the works of other artists. \$15 supply fee and sketch book required.*

BAND - ADVANCED **Year-long course. Must have passed Intermediate Band or with instructor approval. Students will work towards mastery of their instrument and concert band ensemble skills. Students will further develop their individual technique and ensemble skills needed for instrumental performance. *Instrument Required if not eligible to rent from the school.*

CHOIR - CONCERT **Year-long course. Concert Choir involves training in proper vocal technique, and refinement of musicianship skills such as sight-reading, ear training, musical interpretation, and expressions. Students are required to participate in extra-curricular performances in order to receive class credit. No audition is required.*

CHOIR - ADVANCED **Audition Required – year-long course. Advanced Choir is designed for the advanced vocal student who wishes to continue participation in vocal performance, training in proper vocal technique, and refinement of musicianship skills such as sight-reading, ear training, musical interpretation, and expressions. Students are required to participate in extra-curricular performances in order to receive class credit.*

CODING **Semester course. From smartphone apps to video games and everything in between—the world runs on code. Software jobs are predicted to grow 34% in the next few years, making coding the world’s most in-demand skill. Whether you dream of becoming a website developer or want to launch your own mobile game startup, your coding path starts here.*

CREATIVE WRITING: Explore ways to make your stories more exciting, and maybe even have one of your stories published! In this class we will discover techniques authors use to write the stories you love. We will challenge your creativity, writing both with and without prompts. We will also look at the process of becoming a published author, but most of all, we will get to do something we enjoy, writing!

GRAPHIC DESIGN II **Semester course. Beginning course for 7th/8th. This class could lead to a career in webpage and app development, video game design, digital illustration for movies, and so much more. Does any of this sound fun to you? If so, sign up to learn about the tools used to create digital art and animations. In addition to computer art programs, students will also learn basic hand-lettering and drawing techniques.*

GRAPHIC DESIGN III **Semester course. Must have passed Graphic Design II. In this course students will expand their knowledge of Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop. Students will create complex 2D and 3D designs as well as simple animations to solve real-world visual problems. The students will also move to intermediate level application of Principles of Design such as Balance, Repetition, Movement, Scale, and Proportion.*

LEADERSHIP **Year-long course. Application required.* Students will develop leadership and collaboration skills while building a positive and invigorating school culture by participating in school and community service projects.

LIVING STEM III **Semester course.* Students explore the integration of STEM skills through a variety of topics: cooking, nutrition, health, budgeting, careers, and other important skills that prepare you for adult life.

MUSIC MANIA **Semester course.* This class is for music lovers that do not play an instrument—Music Appreciation. Music from all genres. Exploring all types of music and learning to listen.

ORCHESTRA - ADVANCED **Year-long course.* Students who have successfully completed Intermediate Orchestra or **with permission of instructor.** Students will further develop their individual technique and ensemble skills for instrumental performance while working towards mastery of their primary instrument. **Instrument Required if not eligible to rent from the school.*

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PE) **Semester course.* Students will focus on fitness and cooperative games. Students will dress out and participate in a variety of activities to prepare them for an active lifestyle. Students may choose Total Fitness for PE class focusing more on physical fitness than games.

SOCIAL YOU **Semester course.* A Sociology class where we explore ideas of self-esteem, conflict resolution, life-skills, relationships, motivations and goals. Implementing Social Emotional Learning and social media in our lives.

SPANISH 2 **Year-long course. Must have passed Spanish 1.* Taking Spanish in 7th and 8th grade consecutively will put you on track for honors and AP courses at the high school level. Spanish 2 is open to 8th grade students only.

STEM LAB II - General (Lift-Off) **Semester course.* Engage in a more individualized interactive exploration of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math through project-based data collection, hands-on activities, asking questions, and experimenting with lab equipment.

STEM LAB III - Advanced (Soaring) **Semester course. Must have passed STEM LAB – General.* Engage in a more individualized interactive exploration of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math through project-based data collection, hands-on activities, asking questions, and experimenting with lab equipment.

YEARBOOK **Application required – year-long course.* This course helps produce the Sky Ranch Middle School yearbook. Students are tasked with producing a timeless, creative, and innovative keepsake which will record our school's community, memories, and events. Expectations: Students will be challenged with real world projects and assignments. High quality work is expected at all times.