



ELECTIVE SELECTION

2025-2026

8TH GRADE



8th Grade Electives 25-26

Please complete with your parents!!

FORM –Due APRIL 30, 2025

Only 1 submission allowed!!

Additional information on website:

www.washoeschools.net/skyranch

**Fees may be associated with elective courses*

SEMESTER LONG COURSES – PICK UP TO FOUR

EDGENUITY To take this course, students must be at level 3 or above on the SBAC. Students will have the opportunity to take a self-paced health course to earn half a credit for high school. If students complete health, they may take computers and applications for another half credit for high school. These courses are required for freshmen and can put you ahead for your freshman year.

STEM CLASSES

***21st CENTURY MEDIA II** This dynamic class, for students in both 7th and 8th grade, takes students on an exciting journey through the world of media production, focusing on video shot composition, podcast creation, and news reporting. Students will learn key video shot techniques to tell powerful stories, from framing and angles to lighting and movement. They'll also get hands-on experience creating their own podcasts, developing skills in audio recording, editing, and storytelling. As part of the course, students will produce videos like commercials and public service announcements, exploring the creative process behind advertising and messaging. Additionally, students will begin to dive into the world of news reporting, learning the basics of interviewing, gathering information, and presenting stories. By the end of the course, students will have a well-rounded understanding of media production, with the ability to create engaging audio and video content, and the foundational skills for news reporting.

***21st CENTURY MEDIA III** In this advanced video production course, students will build upon the foundational skills they acquired in the 21st Century Media 2 class and take their media production abilities to the next level. Only offered for students who have previously taken Media 2, and passed with a C or better, this class offers an in-depth exploration of news anchoring, video editing, filmmaking, and creating engaging content for a student-run school news broadcast. Students will have hands-on experience producing videos that are shared with school administration, teachers, and peers, that cover a variety of school events and activities. Through collaborative projects, students will enhance their storytelling techniques, camera skills, and editing proficiency while learning about the role of media in shaping communication within a community. By the end of the course, students will be equipped with technical skills and creative confidence to create professional-quality videos and broadcasts that leave a lasting impact.

***AGRICULTURE** Do you ever wonder how we get everything we need, such as food and supplies? In this class, we'll explore how plants and animals help us with that! You'll learn how to grow plants, take care of livestock, understand safe ways to prepare and store food, and much more. Plus, you'll have the chance to join FFA, a nationwide group with over 1 million members that focuses on building leadership skills through cool events, conferences, and competitions. You can even continue the adventure at North Valleys High School or the Academy of AACT, where you could travel to conventions across the country!

***ROBOTICS** Get ready to design, build, and bring robots to life in this exciting hands-on Robotics class! Whether you're a beginner or have some experience, you'll dive into the world of engineering, coding, and problem-solving. Using cutting-edge technology and teamwork, you'll learn how to program robots to complete challenges, navigate obstacles, and along the way, you'll develop critical thinking skills, creativity, and confidence as you explore how robots are shaping the future.

***STEM LAB II (7th & 8th Grade)** In STEM Lab II prepare for an exhilarating journey where creativity meets innovation! With over 30 different projects to choose from, dive into hands-on experiences like electrifying circuitry, exciting building challenges, coding interactive applications, designing with CAD, explore the power of Renewable Energies, or Game Design. This dynamic class will ignite your curiosity and equip you with essential skills for a future filled with endless possibilities!

***STEM LAB III** (8th Grade) Are you ready? STEM Lab III is the ultimate hands-on class where imagination soars! Get ready to build bridges, launch rockets, and design stunning creations with advanced 3D printing and modeling. Dive into the thrilling world of advanced coding and robotics, where you'll bring your innovative ideas to life and experience the excitement of engineering like never before!

Prerequisite: Taken/passed STEM Lab II.

ART CLASSES

***ART II** Students will work with a variety of methods and materials, learning about painting, drawing, and sculpting. Students will evaluate their own work and learn how to evaluate the work of other artists as well.

***ART III** Students MUST have successfully completed Art II to be enrolled in Art III. Students will build on what they learned in Art II as they work with a variety of processes and materials such as painting, drawing and sculpture. Students will evaluate their own work and continue to learn how to critique the work of others.

***DIGITAL DRAWING AND PAINTING** Students will learn basic drawing and painting skills using a Wacom Drawing Board and Adobe Photoshop. Students will learn tricks for drawing more accurately. They will explore drawing techniques like cross-hatching, stippling, and scumbling. Students will also learn digital oil painting techniques. Projects could include landscape painting, drawing cityscapes in perspective, and character creation.

***BEGINNING GRAPHIC DESIGN** Students will study many of the same concepts as a traditional art class, such as the Elements of Art and Principles of Design but will learn to apply these digitally in a computer program called Adobe Illustrator. Many projects will have a business angle, such as creating logos or designing book covers, but students will also learn a few basic drawing skills and learn to carve and print using rubber blocks.

***ADVANCED GRAPHIC DESIGN** Students will continue to learn about the Elements of Art and Principles of Design and will learn to apply these concepts at a more advanced level. Adobe Illustrator, which was the focus of the Beginning Graphic Design Class, will continue to be explored. However, students will also move into Adobe Photoshop where they will learn basic photo editing skills and use Wacom Drawing Boards to learn how to paint digitally. Prerequisite: Beginning Graphic Design.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLASSES

***PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PE)** This course aims to provide students with opportunities to engage in fitness and cooperative games while learning about the importance of regular exercise, physical fitness, and health. It focuses on developing basic physical skills, promoting teamwork, and encouraging a positive attitude towards physical activity.

***TOTAL FITNESS** This course is designed to help individuals of all fitness levels improve their health, build strength, and develop sustainable habits that promote overall well-being. By combining different types of exercise routines, including cardio, strength training, flexibility work, and balance exercises, the course aims to improve physical fitness while educating participants on how to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

***GIRLS CONDITIONING – VOLLEYBALL AND BASKETBALL** This course is structured to help players of all levels develop their volleyball and basketball abilities while focusing on overall physical conditioning. The course emphasizes both individual skills (Volleyball - such as passing, setting, spiking, and serving; Basketball - such as dribbling, shooting, passing, defense, and rebounding) and team-based play, paired with physical conditioning exercises to improve strength, agility, and endurance. The goal is to help participants increase their volleyball and basketball performance, minimize injury risk, and build a higher level of fitness.

***BOYS CONDITIONING – FOOTBALL AND BASKETBALL** The Football and Basketball Skills Conditioning course is structured to help players of all levels develop their football and basketball abilities while focusing on overall physical conditioning. The course emphasizes both individual skills (football - such as passing, catching, defending, and ball skills; Basketball - such as dribbling, shooting, passing, defense, and rebounding) and team-based play, paired with physical conditioning exercises to improve strength, agility, and endurance. The goal is to help participants increase their football and basketball performance, minimize injury risk, and build a higher level of fitness.

YEARLONG COURSES – PICK UP TO TWO

MUSIC CLASSES

***ADVANCED BAND** Successful completion of Intermediate Band is required. Students will work toward mastery of their instrument and concert band ensemble skills. Students will further develop their individual technique and ensemble skills needed for instrumental performance. Students are required to participate in co-curricular performances beyond the school day to receive class credit. **The rental of an instrument is required to participate**

***ADVANCED CHOIR** Advanced choir is open to all 8th grade students interested in vocal performance. The choir sings classical, musical theater, and popular music. The class involves advanced training in proper singing technique, 3-part harmony, and advanced musicianship skills such as sight-reading, ear training, musical interpretation, and expression. Students are required to participate in co-curricular performances beyond the school day to receive class credit. *No audition is required. No previous choir experience required.*

***ADVANCED ORCHESTRA** Successful completion of Intermediate Orchestra or **permission of the instructor is required**. Students will further develop their individual technique and ensemble skills for instrumental performance while working towards mastery of their primary instrument. Students are required to participate in co-curricular performances beyond the school day to receive class credit. **Instrument Required if not eligible to rent from the school.*

OTHER

SPANISH 2 Students must have passed Spanish 1 in 7th grade, open to 8th grade students only. Taking Spanish in 7th and 8th grade will put you on track for honors and AP courses at the high school level. At the end of 8th grade, you will have the opportunity to take the Credit by Exam that, if passed, will give you credit for Spanish 1-2 in high school.

***LEADERSHIP** *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.

YEARBOOK **Application required.* 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.