

**ELECTIVE
COURSE
DESCRIPTIONS
2018-2019**



SEITZ MIDDLE SCHOOL

ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 2018-2019

Band 6: Brass & Percussion/Woodwinds	Grade 6
Full Year Course	3 Electives

6th grade band class is designed for students who would like to learn to play an instrument for the first time. The primary focus for this class is on basic instrumental skill development and music reading. The aim is to develop the student so they can enter into the concert band the following year. This class is all about exploring music freely and learning at a natural pace for each individual student. If a student is looking to learn music while having a good time this is the class for them!

Band 7	Grades 7
Full Year Course	3 Electives

Band 7 provides students with learning and performance opportunities on wind and percussion instruments. The primary focus is on the development, continuation, and expansion of basic skills begun the previous year that are necessary for effective instrumental music performance. In addition to large group ensembles, individual growth and achievement are encouraged through participation in contests, festivals, honor bands, and private lessons. Although the curriculum is designed for students with one to two years of playing experience, students with no prior experience are welcome to participate. Beginners in seventh grade band must choose from one of the following beginning instruments: tuba, clarinet, and euphonium.

Band 8	Grades 8
Full Year Course	3 Electives

Band 8 is an ensemble that provides students with learning and performance opportunities on wind and percussion instruments. The primary focus is on the development, continuation, and expansion of basic skills begun the previous year that are necessary for effective instrumental music performance. In addition to large group ensembles, individual growth and achievement are encouraged through participation in contests, festivals, honor bands, and private lessons.

Choir 6	Grades 6
1 - 3 Trimesters	1-3 Electives

Choir 6 provides students who enjoy singing the opportunity to explore various musical styles. From classical to rock we sing it all. No previous vocal experience is necessary. In the course we will understand how to read music, hold a part and how to manipulate their voice in many different styles. This is a trimester class, but can be taken more than one time during the academic year.

Choir 7 & 8	Grades 7 & 8
Full year course	3 Electives

Choir 7 & 8 provides students who enjoy singing the opportunity to explore various musical styles and further build singing skills. From classical to rock we sing it all. No previous vocal experience is necessary. In the course we will understand how to read music, hold a part and how to use your voice in many different styles. This is a full year course.

Jazz Band	Grades 7 & 8
1 - 3 Trimesters	1-3 Electives

Jazz Band is a trimester class and is open to non-band students who play piano, guitar, bass guitar, or drum set. Teacher approval needed.

Swing Class	Grades 6, 7 & 8
1-3 Trimesters	1 - 3 Electives

Swing Class is a trimester class and is open to non-band/choir students to get involved in music. Instruction may cover guitar class, music theory, history of rock & roll, intro to band or strings/orchestra class.

ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 2018-2019

Drama
1-3 Trimesters

Grades 6, 7 & 8
1 - 3 Electives

Drama is a trimester class designed to introduce students to theatre and possibly participate in Seitz school plays. Students will gain knowledge of all aspects of theatre and play production.

Art
1 Trimester

Grades 6 - 8
1 Elective

6th Grade

The first year of Art instruction at Seitz Middle School is based heavily upon exposure to wide range of media and techniques. The student learns art terminology, basic design elements and principles, and art history. A major goal is to stimulate confidence in self-expression so that the students do not feel intimidated or set limits in their work.

7th Grade

Classes will focus on environmental awareness and development of self-expression, creativity and problem solving through hands on projects. Students will continue to explore many art media with advanced concepts and techniques. Artists and art history will help serve as inspiration and understanding of the arts.

8th Grade

Classes continue instruction in the elements and principles of design. Students will learn further advanced techniques and concepts. New materials and media is introduced.

Stage Prop Creation

Course offered trimester 2 during our school play preparation time. Students will utilize and build their artist abilities by creating various props used in the chosen play for that year. MUST GET MR. CUSUMANO'S APPROVAL TO PARTICIPATE IN COURSE.

Readers Workshop
1 Trimester

Grade 6
1 Elective

This is a reading course that builds and refines skills learned in advanced level reading. This course focuses on increasing critical reading and thinking skills and expanding inferential and analytical comprehension skills. Students will choose reading material within a theme from a teacher provided reading list. This class is project and discussion based.

Creative Writing
1 Trimester

Grade 6
1 Elective

This is a writing course designed to build skills in expressing thoughts and ideas in creative ways. Students will write, select, and edit manuscripts in the genres of poetry, short fiction, and creative non-fiction. This class is project and discussion based.

STEM
1 Trimester

Grade 6
1 Elective

STEM is an acronym that represents the integration of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. STEM is a project-based learning environment in which students are challenged to actively engage in the learning process through critical thinking, analytical observation, experimentation, research and teambuilding.

Visual Graphic Design (grade 6)

Students will utilize existing programs and technology to work through the creative process developing logos, graphics, graphical expression, ect.

STEM MakerSpace Design Challenge

Students will explore the disciplines of science, technology, engineering, mathematics through various challenges that are created in our MakerSpace through inventiveness and design

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Computers 1 Trimester	Grades 6, 7 & 8 1 Elective
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Computer Explorations (grade 6 & 8)

Students will build computer based knowledge in various topics such as digital ethics/citizenship, memory and storage, networking, internet navigation and virus protection, e-commerce and assistance technology, and a variety of other software utilization.

Computer 7: Genius Hour (grade 7)

Students will gain hands on skills/knowledge in programming, website building basics, working with an image editor, and design using a 3D modeling program.

Mythology 1 Trimester	Grade 7 1 Elective
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Explore the world of Greek mythology. Using popular literary character Percy Jackson, students will be introduced to the Gods and Goddesses of Ancient Greece. We will use short stories to compare how the Gods' portrayal has changed through time. In addition, students will learn the origins of some popular modern words, the significance of Greek tales, and complete projects to showcase their knowledge of the subject along with their creativity.

Physical Education 1 Trimester	Grades 6, 7 & 8 1 Elective
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Students are introduced to various aspects of physical education such as nutrition, physical fitness, and team activities.

Gym 6, 7 & 8: Classes are separated by gender (Girls Gym & Boys Gym). Students are expected to change into appropriate attire – a separate lock can be used to secure belongings in locker room while attending class.

Game ON!: 8th grade Co-Ed physical education course where students explore various team sports.

Character Education 1 Trimester	Grade 8 1 Elective
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The major goals of this program is to help young adolescents develop positive behaviors, such as self-discipline, good judgment, responsibility, and getting along with others. This class is mostly discussion oriented. We celebrate diversity and encourage respect for self and others. This class will provide opportunities for young adolescents to practice good citizenship through cooperation and service to others.

During the trimester we will; Build self-discipline, responsibility, and self-confidence, recycle and learn to resist negative peer pressure. Three videos are scheduled; Darius Goes West, Temple Grandin and Freedom Writers.

Current Events 1 Trimester	Grade 8 1 Elective
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The Current Events class will focus on topics dedicated to Michigan, United States, and the World. We will use various modes of technology and media to examine, analyze, and understand the world around us. The class will focus on the use of projects, writing assignments, and debates to connect with the events that shape our country and the world.

Eco Hope 1 Trimester	Grade 8 1 Elective
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ECO HOPE is a trimester long class that will allow students to explore and investigate current environmental issues around the world and right in their own back yard. We will explore and investigate the human-environment interactions and evaluate their impacts on each other. Opportunities will be given to present alternative solutions for resolving and preventing problems we may see in these relationships. Activities may include such things as visits to the local landfill, visits to local wildlife areas such as Humbug Marsh, recycling, energy conservation and many other environmental locations.