

VVJH Elective Course Descriptions 2019-20

All elective courses are semester long with the exception of Choir and Band (year long)

Art I: (7) Fee: Yes This course is designed for 7th and 8th grade students interested in a variety of media and tools. Students will explore art that connects to their community and self expression through drawing, painting, and ceramics. Emphasis is placed on techniques in the production of art, learning vocabulary, art criticism and history. Students will build on vocabulary with the creation of sketchbooks and explore the Elements and Principles of Art through drawing. This course is a prerequisite for Art II.

Art II: (8) Fee: Yes This course is designed for 8th grade students who have previously completed Art I. This course is geared around students who are interested in a variety of media and tools. Students will explore art that connects to self expression through drawing and painting. Emphasis is placed on techniques in the production of art, learning vocabulary, art criticism and history. Students will continue to build on vocabulary and drawing techniques. Students will explore the Elements and Principles of Art through drawing with more individual choice. Prerequisite: Art I.

Band (7) Fee: Yes -This is a performance course. Course work will include reviewing, reinforcing, and expanding knowledge of music fundamentals and techniques through concert literature and instrumental method books. Practice outside of the classroom is expected. All bands will perform at least two concerts during the school year. A portion of the students' grades will be derived from performances. Therefore, each student is expected to participate in all *concerts*. *Special concert attire may be requested by the director*.

Band (8) Fee: Yes This is a performance course comprised of students who have had at least two years of instruction and have attained an average or above level of proficiency on their instrument. These students have developed a good background in rhythms, music reading and playing fundamentals necessary for performing more advanced material. Class work will include reviewing, reinforcing and expanding music fundamentals and techniques through concert literature and the class text. Students are required to purchase the band method book. Written assignments and tests, as well as performance tests, will be administered throughout the year. Practice outside of the classroom is expected. All bands will perform at least two concerts during the school year. A portion of the students' grades will be derived from performances. Therefore, each student is expected to participate in all *concerts*. *Special concert attire may be requested by the director*.

Chamber Choir (7/8) Fee: Yes The seventh and eighth grade Chamber Choir, is a select auditioned ensemble for 7th and 8th grade students. This is a year long performance-based ensemble, working to develop vocal fundamentals while working on literature that spans music history. Such literature includes both sacred and secular repertoire in many languages. As it is a performance-based ensemble, all participants are required to attend all after school performances, including both school and community concerts.

Note: Attendance at all concerts, performances, and rehearsals is mandatory unless the absence is excused by the school attendance policy or a music director. Unexcused absences from ANY concerts, performances, or practices will result in lower Grades, possible course failure, and possible removal from the group.

Computer Technology I-(7) Students will continue to improve their skills in research, internet safety, typing and collaborative technology projects. Students will learn and practice basic Web design skills including HTML, layout design and computer hardware and software that can be used in the Web site creation process.

Computer Technology II-(8) This class builds upon Computer Technology I with a greater emphasis on Web design skills and Coding. Students will learn about computer science, computational thinking, and programming.

Destination Unknown (7/8) Fee: Yes Students will enjoy taking a virtual trip around the USA. They will use critical thinking skills to decode clues about each location they will visit. Students will make choices about transportation, accommodations, meals, and sight seeing that fit into their budget. Along the way students will learn about different cultures, social issues, geography, food, and practice life skills needed to complete tasks. Students will create an electronic travel journal including various writing assignments, pictures, and memorabilia. They will also analyze written reviews to determine bias and validity, develop creative writing skills, present and defend their choice to classmates, research a current or recent controversy that has had an impact on an area and evaluate the text, learn about a variety of service organizations and determine what type of work could help an issue our our community, among much more.

Health (8) length: semester; high school credit: 0.5

Health will include an overview of the human body. It will also cover such topics as mental health, stress management, physical fitness, nutrition basics, disease prevention and control, alcohol and tobacco use, first aid and CPR, environmental health, and health care. With the successful completion of this course, students will meet the 0.5 credit of Health required for graduation. Credit received for this class will be included on the high school transcript.

Music Technology- (7/8) This course will use technology to explore, create, and perform music. Students will learn about digital audio recording, audio editing, music software (software instruments, editing, looping, mixing and mastering), publishing, and scoring for video. The Internet, electronic musical instruments, and computer software/hardware provide students with the opportunity to study music in many ways including researching, practicing skills, composing, and arranging musical works. Students who have an interest or background in music are encouraged to take this class.

Physical Education (7/8) -This course stresses development of skills in a wide variety of individual, dual, and group activities. Students will learn and practice responsible social behaviors in a physical activity setting. At the end of this course, students will be able to find ways to enjoy physical activity throughout their lifetime. Physical education is an integral part of our total school curriculum; participating in physical activities aide in the development of cognitive skills, gross motor and fine motor skills, problem solving, teamwork as well as self-confidence, social skills, and an appreciation of individual differences. Getting on B.A.S.E (Behavior, Attitude, Sportsmanship and Effort) are vital to a students success in PE. Having good behavior and a good attitude, understanding sportsmanship and putting forth your best effort are the characteristics that are needed to succeed in PE as well as everyday life. Through exercise we stimulate and develop the use of mental and physical skills, physical fitness, participation in various games and sports, plus knowledge of the rules. These skills will give students an appreciation of the importance of mental and physical skills throughout one's lifetime.

STEM-Fee: yes (7) (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) introduces students to the Engineering Design Process (EDP). Students will utilize problem solving, discovery, exploratory learning, and innovation with respect to combining science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. STEM will allow students to focus on higher-order thinking in order to work through projects connected to the real world. Students will be expected to relate key vocabulary in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to the projects they design and also to reevaluate and redesign through iteration to construct an improved end result. This course will advance problem solving skills by taking students through the steps that scientists and engineers use in everyday life while also making career connections. Throughout this course, students will grow in their curiosity and confidence about STEM with hands-on, project based interactive design challenges.

STEM- Fee: yes (8) (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) incorporates the fundamentals of the Engineering Design Process (EDP) and offers inquiry-based approaches to address age-appropriate design challenges. The class is designed to offer students the opportunity to use their scientific knowledge and incorporate mathematics, and technology skills to solve real-world issues by creating applications including prototype modeling. Students will understand how engineers, scientists, and mathematicians all work together with technology to solve problems. Students will be exposed to and make career connections throughout the course. The students will work in collaborative groups and complete projects. Each project will be a design project that will be tested, evaluated, re-designed and tested again to reach the best possible solution to the design challenge given.