



Lester Middle School Course Descriptions 8th Grade 2012 - 2013

8th Grade Semester Classes

PE: Instructional activities are designed to further develop students' movement and physical fitness. Students participate in a variety of sports and other physical activities.

Graphics Communication: Students will explore the different areas, techniques and processes used in the area of graphic art. The lessons will be a combination of computer and traditional (drawing, painting) art projects.

Health: This course is designed to help students conceptualize knowledge, attitudes, and skills related to health issues of adolescents and the pre-cursors of adult health problems that have risk factors that may emerge during adolescence. Developmentally appropriate concepts of personal and community health, (PCH), and safety (SFTY) are taught in this course.

Pathways to Careers: This class is designed to provide students with a broad overview of the world of work through self/career awareness. Students will be introduced to career development as a life-long process. Topics will include self and career assessments, career exploration, personal qualities needed in a work environment, and electronic information sources.

Semester Electives

Family Consumer Science: The course will acquaint the students with family relationships, child care, basic nutrition and meal preparation, environmental resources, and clothing care. (Home Economics)

Family Consumer Science Part 2: Students will learn the importance of food selection and nutrition. Units on the quality of life, personal relationships, family living, infant care, conflict resolution, personal environment design and sewing construction skills will be addressed.

Drama: Students will study one act, improvisation, and the history of the theater. The eventual goal is to stage a culminating performance.

Advanced Physical Education – Strength & Conditioning: Open to students who would like to focus on improving their strength, speed, agility and endurance. The course will utilize various training methods and competition to challenge the student on a regular basis. Training will not be sport specific, but will be applicable to improvement in all physical activities

2 Dimensional Art- Drawing: The drawing course is designed for students who want to explore drawing as a means of self-expression. The course activities develop students' skills in the techniques and styles of drawing media. Students explore the two and three-dimensional aspects in drawing and develop personal expression.

Art: Students will explore the elements and principles of art and design and learn techniques in drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, and crafts.

Applied Technology: This course provides students with an introduction to various forms of technology and technical systems. Career opportunities will also be explored. Students will work in teams involved in problem solving activities, with 9 weeks of engineering and 9 weeks of video and animation. Activities include, but are not limited to, production and manufacturing, robotics, electronics, architecture, entrepreneurship, aerospace, transportation, power, energy technologies and the use of state of the art equipment in producing videos and animation.

Business Enterprise: Business Enterprise introduces students to the world of work, its expectations, demand for skills, flow-of-activity, performance standards and need for interpersonal skills. The first nine weeks concentrate on developing these capabilities; the second nine weeks set up a cooperative business simulation or an actual business in which students apply the skills in different work roles.

Journalism: Students will learn the fundamentals of writing for a publication while gaining an understanding of the basics of journalism. The major emphasis of this course is to introduce students to journalistic writing and improve individual writing styles. Students will also explore the different functions of the mass media, define the role of the media in the daily lives of Americans and American society, and explore the career opportunities available in the field of journalism. Students will also contribute to school publications.

Study Skills: Note taking techniques, organizational skills, test taking tips, learning a variety of study techniques, fostering the ability to work with team members and independently, time organization and the importance of responsibility are some of the learning strategies that will be reinforced.

Office Assistant: Students must maintain a 3.0 GPA (with nothing lower than a C). Students assist in the office, library and computer lab with various tasks.

Year Long Electives

Chorus: Provides students the following vocal musical learning experiences: Learning the beginning and basic fundamentals of sight-reading vocal music, distinguishing and singing two and three-part music, singing with ensembles and chorus, studying intonation, singing a cappella, experiencing a wide variety of choral repertoire including secular and no secular music, singing with keyboard and other instrumental accompaniment, and singing in public performances and musical productions.

Beginning Band: Students are introduced to basic music techniques. Instrumental musical activities are practiced, good habits are instilled when playing and caring for instruments. Students will learn to sight read instrumental music independently and in-group ensemble.

Intermediate Band: For students with advanced or intermediate musical skills. Intermediate to advanced sight reading and playing at sight is practiced. Students will be learn to perform independently, and in-group ensemble, by observing all critical markings of interpretation.

String Ensemble: The string ensemble course is designed to acquaint students with beginning to advanced instrumental music skills. Students will learn to sight read instrumental music independently and in-group ensemble to include violin, viola, cello, & bass.

AVID: (Advancement Via Individual Determination) Language based course where academic survival skills, such as time management, note taking, textbook reading, research, test taking and study skills are taught. The goal is to prepare AVID students to be successful in college. Specific criteria must be met in order to be enrolled.

Languages offered: Spanish 1, & 2, Japanese 1 & 2 and Chinese 1 & 2

Foreign Language courses 1 & 2 teach students how to pronounce and discriminate among the various sounds. Students learn to give oral and written information by using appropriate learned vocabulary, word order, grammatical forms and to read silently and aloud with comprehension.

For detailed description of courses go to DODEA's course description website:

<http://www.dodea.edu/curriculum/courses.cfm>