

# **MOUNTAIN VIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL**

## **Course Descriptions 2018-2019**

# **8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

### **STANDARD COURSES:**

- 1) Humanities (Language Arts and Social Studies)
- 2) Math
- 3) PE (School uniforms required.)
- 4) Science
- 5) 2 Electives (Choices listed below.) ELD or special education services may take the place of one elective.

### **ELECTIVE COURSES:**

**Teacher/Office/Library Aide** The most important expectation of this elective is confidentiality of materials you may work with in this job. You must have good grades and attendance along with being dependable, friendly, outgoing and able to follow directions.

**AVID** AVID is a nationally recognized program designed to prepare underserved students for college or career readiness. This class is great preparation for students who want to challenge themselves to be successful both in and out of the classroom. By providing the student long term personal attention and teaching the academic and life skills necessary, typically all AVID graduates are accepted to college upon graduation from high school. Because of the high interest in this program, an application and interview process is required for enrollment.

**Wildcat Pride - Leadership** The purpose of this class is to promote school pride through service, develop personal leadership skills and plan activities. Students will also work to build a sense of community and belonging within our school, learn to work with nonprofit organizations *and will log community service hours.*

**Wildcat Pride - Yearbook** Students will learn about design, layout, photography and the opportunity to write, film, and edit school promotional videos. Having a computer at home with an internet connection is not a requirement however, it is highly recommended. The course structure is not traditional in that each student often works independently on assigned tasks and possibly multiple tasks/assignments at the same time.

**Woodshop/3D Printing** In this class we will learn various aspects of building projects out of wood and other materials. Students enrolled in this class will also learn how to work in a safe environment. Most projects will involve the use of hand and power tools. We will also look at how wood technology has changed from primitive hand tools to modern woodworking machines. Ever wonder how things are made with a 3D printer? We will learn how to make simple shapes and logos. Fee \$15 for each class.

**Cooking and Foods** In this class you will learn basic cooking skills or improve on the skills you already have. The class will focus on learning how to make tasty food and to be safe in the kitchen. In addition to cooking we learn food and knife safety, investigate meal planning, nutrition, culinary careers, and the science of cooking. The class will work in teams to make a variety of dishes starting with the basics and moving on to main dishes, breads, and yummy desserts. We try foods from a variety of cultures and have cooking challenges to compete with the other teams in the class. This is the class for you if you want to learn about blending, baking, and culinary topics. May not be taken again if previously in the class. Fee \$15

**STEM Innovate** Calling all creative, clever students! STEM class will be a hands-on problem solving experience. We will have fun designing creative solutions to real problems in the school, community and the world. The class will also include learning to code using a variety of programs and languages.

**Intramural Sports** Extend the skills you're learning in PE in a more competitive way. Beat your friends in basketball. Be the best at Pickle ball. If you like sports and having fun through friendly competition, this elective is for you.

**Art - Beginning** This introductory course is designed to give students a sampling of art projects and experiences that explore the elements of art (line, shape, color, etc.), the principles of design (pattern, balance, emphasis, etc) and provide opportunities to observe and respond to their artwork and the work of others (art history, contemporary art, etc). Students will work in a variety of art media. Fee: \$15

**Art - Advanced** Students will build upon skills and experiences from Beginning Art to create a variety of unique artworks that demonstrate an understanding of the elements of art and principles of design. Students will continue to work in many different art media. Art history, art criticism and art critiques will be included in this course. Fee: \$15

**Beginning Spanish** The goal for students in this class is to be able to conduct simple conversations in Spanish. This fun course teaches basic language patterns and vocabulary. Repetition and comprehensible input are important components of this course. Students begin their introduction to Spanish by focusing on the four key areas of foreign language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Culture is an integral part of the course and is introduced through the use of media, games, and class discussions.

**Intermediate Spanish** In intermediate Spanish, students will use all they have learned in Beginning Spanish to make the transition to a more advanced understanding of the language and culture. The course will be conducted as much as possible in Spanish so that students will become comfortable hearing and using basic forms of the language. Most importantly, students will continue their journey towards learning a second language, giving them a multitude of opportunities in the future!  
Prerequisite: Beginning Spanish

**Spanish, Native Speakers** This course offers Spanish-speaking students opportunities to study Spanish formally in an academic setting and is conducted entirely in Spanish. The course allows students to reactivate the Spanish they have learned previously and develop it further, to learn more about the Spanish language and cultural heritage. This course focuses on the development of communicative competence in reading, writing, speaking and listening and viewing, as well as on understanding Hispanic cultures. During this course, students will gain confidence using Spanish to express their own thoughts on social and academic themes and interact with other speakers of the language.

**Study Hall** A quiet, self-motivated class to work on homework and assignments.

**Band – Beginning** This class is for anyone who wants to learn to play a band instrument. Instruction in flute, oboe, clarinet, alto and tenor sax, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone horn, tuba and percussion (drums & bells). Students will learn to read music, perform in four concerts, and develop friendships while enjoying a beginning musical experience.

**Band – Intermediate** This class is 2<sup>ND</sup> year of band. Instruction in flute, oboe, clarinet, bass clarinet, all saxophones, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, tuba and percussion (drums & bells). This class has four concerts during the school year. Students play for elementary students and also travel to other schools to perform. Students are required to have previous band experience. Students in this class can be in Jazz Band.

**Band – Advanced** This is the 3<sup>RD</sup> year band class. Instruction in flute, oboe, clarinet, bass clarinet, all saxophones, trumpet, french horn, trombone, baritone, tuba and percussion (drums & bells). The class performs many times throughout the year for the school and community. This band represents the school at two festivals in the spring. Students in this class can be in Jazz Band.

**Choir** In this choir, students will learn how to sing. Students will learn correct vocal technique and will improve in pitch, tone and reading music by sight. Many different styles of songs will be explored and students will learn how to sing in parts. Students will be performing and are required to sing in four concerts a year and at least one festival.

**Strings – Beginning** This class is open to students with no previous instruction on a stringed instrument. Instruction on violin, cello, viola and bass are featured in this class. Students follow a curriculum sheet as they learn at their own pace. They will complete Level 1 in Beginning Strings and will have approximately three concerts during the year.

**Strings – Advanced** This class is open to students who have successfully completed one or more years of string instruction. This group gives concerts each term. Opportunities for solo work are available and string orchestra literature is included. Students may complete higher levels (1-3) in Advanced Strings. Students who have had one or two years of private instruction may automatically join this class as a 6<sup>th</sup> grader.

**Band & Strings Instrument Information:** Instruments are selected at the beginning of the year; most are purchased by parents through a lease or rent-to-own program through music stores for approx. \$35.00 per month. Mountain View has a few school instruments for rent available on a first come, first served basis.

***Band, Strings, & Choir Performance Information:***

***There are a few evening performances students are required to participate in during the year.***