MOUNTAIN VIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL

Course Descriptions 2015-2016

Parents who would like MVMS administration to consider the unique learning needs of their student before the final schedule decision is competed, may do so by completing the **Scheduling Consideration Form**.  This form can be acquired at the main office and is due by June 1st.  All requests turned in on time will be considered.  Due to schedule constraints and our responsibility to create appropriate learning communities, no guarantee can be made that all requests can or will be fulfilled.  The information on the form will be shared with staff members as needed.

**STANDARD COURSES**:

 1) Core (Language Arts and Social Studies)

 2) Math (Students are placed by teacher recommendation.)

1. PE (Separate boys and girls classes. School uniforms required.)
2. Science
3. Elective (Choices listed below.)

**ELECTIVE** **COURSES**:

**Science Discovery:** The class will consist of a series of self-directed construction projects involving topics in energy, electricity, robotics, experiment design and physics. You must be an independent worker who likes to build things to be successful in this class. ***Fees: A one-time lab fee of $15.***

***The following class will be offered for one half of the year with Science Discovery for the other half of the year.***

**Digital Exploration one semester/Science Discovery one semester:** In this class students will explore the digital world by completing various projects utilizing Google Earth, Prezi, photo and video editing software and other digital media. Students will also create and maintain Mountain View’s blog and engage in 21st century digital citizenship.

**Art**: Art students will learn about different artists, media, and techniques and how to apply them to their own works of art through drawing, painting, sculpting, printmaking, and fibers.***Fees: A one-time lab fee of $15.***

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

**Teacher/Office 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.

**Wildcat Pride:** The purpose of this class is to promote school pride through service, develop personal leadership skills, plan activities, and document these and other school events to produce our school yearbook. 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.  Students will learn about design, layout and photography.  Having a computer at home with internet connection is not a requirement however, it is highly recommended; as our yearbook program is online.  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.

**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, virtually 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.  For more information, please contact the counseling office at (503) 554-4507.

**Mandarin Chinese -** This course offers students an introduction to Mandarin Chinese. In addition to building a meaningful vocabulary, students will learn the basic concepts of sentence structure, pronunciation, and writing.

**Acoustic Guitar -** Students will learn basic chords and songs. No experience is necessary as this is a beginning guitar class. Students must provide their own guitar. A guitar method book will be provided.

 **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 2ND 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 3RD 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.

**Men’s Choir/Percussion Class:** Offered to 6th, 7th and 8th grade boys. Students will learn choral music, but also be exposed to percussion techniques (bucket drumming, percussion ensemble activities and reading music). Students will perform evening concerts at least four times a year.

**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.  The Suzuki Method is followed and students learn to read music as they play.  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 6th 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.