

**Aprende Middle School**

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Elective Interest Sheet 2023-24 School Year**

Student First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Kyrene Student ID #: \_\_\_\_\_

Homeroom teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The elective interest sheet must be completed prior to entering information online. The online interest form will be completed at school in February. After the online interest form is complete, your teacher will collect the paper copy of the elective interest sheet.

Each seventh or eighth grade student will be scheduled in four core courses (Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies) based upon data, current course placement, and need. Students who are new to the Kyrene School District are given placement tests upon registration or placed based upon prior school records.

Students also have two elective class periods. Students may have 2 one year-long elective classes, 1 one year-long and 2 semester-long elective classes, or 4 semester-long elective classes.

This paper version of the form along with course descriptions will support families in expressing their elective interests. The form will be kept on file by the middle schools.

Priority is given for placement in year-long elective offerings. Rankings of semester-long elective options is an indication of a student’s interests. Every effort will be made to honor the interests, however due to class size and teacher availability there can be no guarantee that every course will be offered or that the student will be placed in their classes of interest.

**Primary Course Interest Options**

**Complete ONLY ONE box depending upon the length of your primary courses of interest.**

*Students who wish to take a semester course for a full year may write that course for two of their semester course options (not guaranteed).*

<p><b>2 year-long courses</b></p> <p>Year-long course _____</p> <p>Year-long course _____</p>	<p><b>OR</b></p>	<p><b>1 year-long and 2 semester-long courses</b></p> <p>Year-long course _____</p> <p>Semester-long course _____</p> <p>Semester-long course _____</p>	<p><b>OR</b></p>	<p><b>4 semester-long courses</b></p> <p>Semester-long course _____</p> <p>Semester-long course _____</p> <p>Semester-long course _____</p> <p>Semester-long course _____</p>
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**Alternate Course Interest Options**

**List your alternate course interests in the space below. Alternates must be completed and will be used in the event that a course interest cannot be fulfilled. These alternates must be DIFFERENT from the courses listed above.**

Alternate Course 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
Alternate Course 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Alternate Course 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Alternate Course 4 \_\_\_\_\_

For Band and Orchestra  
Instrument: \_\_\_\_\_ Years: \_\_\_\_\_

**ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS – YEAR-LONG COURSES**

<p><b>AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE 1A</b>                  American Sign Language 1A is a course that introduces students to the foundations of American Sign Language. Students develop interpersonal, presentational and interpretive skills at the Novice Low proficiency level by expressing some basic needs, using practiced or memorized signs and phrases, with the help of facial expressions and body placement on very familiar topics. In addition to vocabulary development, language structure, and grammar, students will be introduced to the Deaf community, the role American Sign Language plays in uniting and creating that community, 20th Century Deaf history and important figures of Deaf culture.                  Prerequisite: none</p>	<p><b>AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE 1B</b>                  American Sign Language 1B is a full-year course and a continuation of American Sign Language 1A. Students develop interpersonal, presentational and interpretive skills at the Novice Mid proficiency level by expressing basic needs related to familiar and everyday activities, using a mixture of practiced or memorized words, phrases, and simple questions with the help of facial expressions and body placement. In addition to vocabulary development, language structures, and grammar, students will expand their knowledge of the Deaf community, Deaf culture, and Deaf history along with deeper study of important Deaf historical figures.                  Prerequisite: American Sign Language 1A or equivalent</p>
<p><b>AVID ELECTIVE</b>                  AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) Elective is a year-long course for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Students in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade must apply, interview, and sign a one-year AVID agreement. The focus of the course is on writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization and reading to support academic growth. Students receive training in effective study skills, such as note taking, organizational skills, and goal-setting strategies. Tutorials, small group student work, are held twice per week that are led by college students, other adults, peer tutors and/or cross-age tutors. Students also experience different field trips, guest speakers and research to increase their knowledge of college and career options. The concepts, strategies, and skills build in a sequenced curriculum so that students benefit from taking the AVID Elective across all three grade levels.                  Prerequisites: none</p>	<p><b>BAND</b>                  Band is designed for students interested in learning the fundamentals of music and to play a band instrument: flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone, tuba, and percussion. This course addresses basic instrumental skills, reading music, and elements of music in an ensemble setting. Students are required to practice regularly and participate in concerts through the school year. No prior knowledge or experience is required. Students will need to rent or purchase an instrument from an outside vendor, with some exceptions.                  Prerequisites: none</p>
<p><b>BAND ADVANCED</b>                  Students expand basic skills and techniques on band instruments. Instruction is directed toward playing music that is more difficult from a variety of styles and genres. Students may be grouped by instrumentation including brass/woodwinds, percussion/woodwinds, brass only, or percussion only. Students are required to practice regularly and participate in concerts through the school year. Students will need to rent or purchase an instrument from an outside vendor, with some exceptions.                  Prerequisites: Band or teacher recommendation</p>	<p><b>CHORUS</b>                  Chorus is an entry-level course for students interested in learning how to sing. Basic fundamentals of music including sight-reading and vocabulary are introduced. Students sing music written in two parts and will learn elements of music theory and solfege. Students will focus on the technical aspects of singing in a choir and explore a variety of genres and cultures. Students are required to perform in concerts throughout the year.                  Prerequisites: none</p>
<p><b>CHORUS ADVANCED</b>                  Advanced chorus is a singing ensemble designed for experienced music students. Students will demonstrate proficiency in vocal technique, note reading skills, and matching pitch. Students will continue to develop vocal technique and musicianship, while performing various choral works of a more advanced level. Students are required to participate in concerts each quarter as well as other performance opportunities that arise throughout the year.                  Prerequisites: Chorus or teacher recommendation</p>	<p><b>ORCHESTRA</b>                  Orchestra provides students with an opportunity to learn to play the violin, viola, cello or bass. This class teaches basic string instrument skills, reading music, and elements of music. Students are required to participate in concerts through the school year. No prior knowledge or experience is required. Students will need to rent or purchase an instrument from an outside vendor, with some exceptions.                  Prerequisites: none</p>
<p><b>ORCHESTRA ADVANCED</b>                  Students expand basic skills and techniques on string instruments. Instruction is directed toward playing music that is more difficult from a variety of styles and genres. Students are required to participate in concerts through the school year. Students will need to rent or purchase an instrument from an outside vendor, with some exceptions.                  Prerequisites: Orchestra or teacher recommendation</p>	<p><b>SPANISH 1A</b>                  Spanish 1A is a yearlong course that focuses on the foundations of the Spanish language. Students develop interpersonal, presentational and interpretive skills at a Novice Mid proficiency level including vocabulary, grammar, language, sentence patterns, verb conjugation, and conversational dialogues. This class promotes the use of language in meaningful contexts. This is a rigorous academic class and requires regular homework. This course is the first course in the Spanish 1 sequence.                  Prerequisites: none</p>

**ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS – SEMESTER-LONG COURSES**

<p><b>ART</b>                  In Art, students explore various art forms from many cultures and periods. The focus is on art making with art history and analysis integrated into each unit. Students gain foundational knowledge of art vocabulary, techniques, history and art criticism. Students use a variety of media and create a variety of art forms including drawing, painting, and sculpture.                  Prerequisites: none</p>	<p><b>COMPUTER SCIENCE 1</b>                  This introductory course provides students with a foundation in computer science concepts that include coding, app development, game design, robotics, computer processing and networking. Throughout the course, students will strengthen essential 21<sup>st</sup> century skills to communicate, collaborate, think critically, problem solve, create and innovate. Ultimately, the goal of the course is to empower all students to use computer science to solve real-world problems and shift their mindset from technology consumers to technology creators.                  Prerequisites: none</p>
<p><b>COMPUTER SCIENCE 2</b>                  This course builds upon the knowledge and concepts introduced in Computer Science 1. The course will include coding, web page design &amp; development, app development, game design, robotics, computer processing and networking. Throughout the course, students will strengthen essential 21<sup>st</sup> century skills to communicate, collaborate, think critically, problem solve, create and innovate. The goal of the course is to empower all students to use computer science to solve real-world problems and shift their mindset from technology consumers to technology creators.                  Prerequisites: Computer Science 1 or equivalent</p>	<p><b>CREATIVE WRITING EXPLORATIONS</b>                  Creative Writing Explorations is a semester-long class devoted to the study and craft of fiction-writing, offering students the opportunity to develop and improve their technique and individual style in the expressive form of the short story. The emphasis of the course is on writing; however, students will study exemplary representations and authors to obtain a fuller appreciation of the form and craft in order to create their own short stories for publication.                  Prerequisites: none</p>
<p><b>CULINARY ARTS</b>                  In Culinary Arts, students gain knowledge and apply principles of nutrition in relationship to wellness, food choices, food preparation, food storage, meal planning, and meal management. As an integral part of the course, students will participate in food laboratory where they will learn how to prepare various cooking techniques essential to prepare various dishes.                  Prerequisites: none</p>	<p><b>MULTIMEDIA DIGITAL ARTS</b>                  In Multimedia/Digital Arts, students explore and learn about production techniques that support the creation of graphic arts, web design, digital photography, animation, audio recording/mixing, and videography. A wide range of the latest hardware and software are utilized, including the Adobe Creative Cloud collection. Students collaborate in a project-based environment to develop understanding of the media used and creative techniques for future applications.                  Prerequisites: none</p>
<p><b>PHYSICAL EDUCATION</b>                  Physical Education is an introduction to physical fitness, physical skill development, and wellness concepts with an emphasis on preparation for a lifetime of physical activity. Students are required to dress out and a locker with a lock will be issued. Information on PE uniforms is available at the beginning of the year through the physical education teachers and school office.                  Prerequisites: none</p>	<p><b>STEM</b>                  The STEM course inspires student interest and passion for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) career paths. Students foster creativity, engage in critical thinking, and collaborate in a project-based environment. Students utilize the engineering design process to identify the effectiveness, efficiency, and durability of designs under different conditions through hands-on and technology-rich activities.                  Prerequisites: none</p>
<p><b>TEXTILE ARTS</b>                  In Textile Arts, activities include hand sewing techniques, machine use and care, fabric selection and create various useful projects like garments, bags, and accessories. Students will practice workplace skills such as time management, perseverance, and problem-solving. Students may take this course once each year. Advanced students will design special pieces of clothing using the sewing machine and work on personal choice projects with instructor approval.                  Prerequisites: none</p>	<p><b>THEATRE</b>                  In Theatre, students experience the beginning foundations of acting technique including exercises and improvisations exploring awareness, relaxation, observation, pantomime, voice, and theatrical vocabulary. A focus on becoming comfortable on stage, character work, and collaboration is emphasized. Students are involved in performances as an application of learning. Students also learn audience etiquette and constructive criticism.                  Prerequisites: none</p>
<p><b>THEATRE II</b>                  In Theatre II, students will use their prior knowledge to master more advanced theatre skills including acting, technical design, and directing. Students will explore theater history. A focus on leadership, collaboration, and innovative problem solving is emphasized. Students are involved in performances of scripted and original works as an application of learning.                  Prerequisites: Theatre or teacher recommendation</p>	<p><b>TV BROADCASTING</b>                  In TV Broadcasting, students prepare video announcements and information to present to the school. Students practice reading and writing skills in public speaking and entertainment formats. Creativity and collaboration are brought to the screen by using video and audio recording equipment as well as graphics and editing software.                  Prerequisites: none</p>