

Aprende Middle School

8th 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>2 year-long courses</p> <p>Year-long course _____</p> <p>Year-long course _____</p>	<p>OR</p>	<p>1 year-long and 2 semester-long courses</p> <p>Year-long course _____</p> <p>Semester-long course _____</p> <p>Semester-long course _____</p>	<p>OR</p>	<p>4 semester-long courses</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**AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE 1A**

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

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE 1B

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

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE 1C

American Sign Language 1C is a full-year course and a continuation of American Sign Language 1B. Students develop interpersonal, presentational and interpretive skills at the Novice High proficiency level by carrying out short spontaneous signed conversations both expressively and receptively with the help of facial expressions and body placement. Students exchange information on both very familiar and everyday topics using a variety of practiced or memorized signs, phrases, simple sentences and questions. Students will continue to build their knowledge on the Deaf community, Deaf culture, and Deaf history along with deeper study of important Deaf historical figures.

Prerequisite: American Sign Language 1B or equivalent

AVID ELECTIVE

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) Elective is a year-long course for 7th and 8th grade. Students in 7th and 8th 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

BAND ADVANCED

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

CHORUS ADVANCED

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

ORCHESTRA ADVANCED

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

SPANISH 1B

Spanish 1B is a yearlong course and a continuation of Spanish 1A. Students continue to develop interpersonal, presentational and interpretive skills at a Novice High 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 second course in the Spanish 1 sequence.

Prerequisites: Spanish 1A or equivalent

ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS – SEMESTER-LONG COURSES

ART 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	COMPUTER SCIENCE 2 This course builds upon the knowledge and concepts introduced in Computer Science 1. The course will include coding, web page design & development, app development, game design, robotics, computer processing and networking. Throughout the course, students will strengthen essential 21st 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. Prerequisite: Computer Science 1 or equivalent
CREATIVE WRITING EXPLORATIONS 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	CULINARY ARTS 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
MULTIMEDIA DIGITAL ARTS 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	PHOTOGRAPHY In Photography, students will be introduced to photography as an art medium in this class. The focus will be on the technical use of cameras and printing as well as the history of photography and how it has been used as an art medium. After mastering the technical skills, students will learn compositional and lighting techniques to apply in their own artwork. Most equipment will be provided. Prerequisites: none
PHYSICAL EDUCATION 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	STEM 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
TEXTILE ARTS 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	THEATRE II 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 equivalent
THEATRE III Students use their prior knowledge from previous semesters to master more advanced theatre skills including technical design and directing. A focus on leadership, collaboration, and innovating problem solving is emphasized. Students are involved in performances of scripted and original works as an application of learning. Prerequisites: Theatre II or equivalent	TV BROADCASTING 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