

# Durant Middle School

Course Selection Requests  
2018 - 2019

# Core Classes

- Every student will have 4 core classes.
- 7<sup>th</sup> grade – Math, Science, Geography and English/Language Arts combined in a block of 2 periods.
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade – Math, Science, American History and English/Language Arts combined in a block of 2 periods.

# Advanced Coursework is Offered

- You may apply to take advanced courses.
- 7<sup>th</sup> grade – Advanced ELA and Pre-Algebra
- 8<sup>th</sup> graded – Advanced ELA, Physical Science and Algebra

# Criteria for Advanced Class Placement

- ◉ Grade of 85 or higher in current corresponding class
- ◉ Passing score on previous corresponding state assessments
- ◉ Attendance that is at or higher than the state mandate of 90%
- ◉ Must have approval of corresponding teacher for the current year
- ◉ ELA Only – must be at or above grade level on Reading Star Assessment
- ◉ Classes are limited. Meeting criteria DOES NOT guarantee placement

# Full Year Electives

- The following electives are full year (both semesters)
- If you are choosing two of these, only choose two electives.
- If you are choosing one of these, choose two more electives
- If you are choosing none of these, choose four more electives

# Band

- Band I and Band II – 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Band
- Band Skills Practice – This class is for students currently enrolled in the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade band class, not the 7<sup>th</sup> grade beginning band class. The students enrolled in this class must also be concurrently enrolled in either the 7<sup>th</sup> grade or 8<sup>th</sup> grade band. This class is designed to further develop students practice skills and abilities through additional, structured practice time. The director works with each student on a more personal basis to develop skills in a lesson studio environment. Each student will not only have extra practice time during the week, but also lessons in music history, aural dictation, music literature, and individual musical studies
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Beginning Band - This class is for students who have not been in band before or was in 6<sup>th</sup> grade band and needs remedial work with fundamentals. Students who enroll in this class do not enroll in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade band class. The students will be able to choose from instruments that are currently needed in the large ensemble band, or by director recommendation. Students who take this class will take an end of semester/end of year skill test to determine if they will be placed within the large ensemble of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade class.

# Boys and Girls Competitive Athletics

- You only need to take athletics if you plan to be in Football, Basketball and Wrestling. YOU CANNOT TAKE PE AND ATHLETICS
- All other sports are after school. Please check with coaches if you are unsure whether you should be in athletics.

# Appawse: \*prerequisite Audition and consent of instructor only

- Appawse is a year-long, upper-level performance opportunity offered to intermediate/advanced choir students who have at least one year of school choir experience. Students will continue to develop vocal technique and musicianship as well as develop critical thinking skills through the analysis of musical elements, including form and text. Students are expected to participate in four evening concerts as a major part of their grade, compete at OSSAA District contest in February, and other performance opportunities outside of school that arise throughout the year. Appawse members are expected to attend the Branson trip in May.



# Treble Chorus (Girls) and Tenor-Bass Chorus (Boys)

Choir classes are year-long and open to all students at Durant Middle School. Students will focus on healthy vocal technique, fundamentals of music theory, history, sight-singing, and the rehearsal of music. Most importantly, students will develop self-discipline and learn to work cooperatively. Students sing everyday and participate in group activities. Other optional opportunities include auditioning for regional and state honor choirs, competition at OSSAA Solo/Ensemble contest, and a four-day performance tour in Branson, MO. The Treble and Tenor-Bass choruses perform four concerts as a major part of their grade and compete at OSSAA District contest in February.

# Single Semester Electives

- These electives are offered for one semester.
- 8<sup>th</sup> graders may not repeat single semester electives taken in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, with the exception of PE, Study Skills and Band Practice Skills.

# Boys and Girls PE

- General fitness activities and sporting games are a part of this class. Gym shoes are required for daily activities.

# Music

- Music Theory:

Do you have a passion for music and want to learn more about how it works? Are you a musician who learned by ear and has no formal training? Would you like to study music but are unsure of where to begin? Then this music theory course is for you. This course is a one-semester elective and includes six units that will give you the knowledge and skills you need to understand basic music theory.

- Music History:

Wonder how we got to today's music? Where did it come from? What's so special about Mozart? Music History is a one-semester elective and there is no prerequisite. The class will encompass the entire spectrum of music history beginning with the music and composers of the Middle Ages and spanning the Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, and Romantic periods of music and ending with the art music of the 20th century. Students will listen and analyze music examples and participate in discussion.

# Made in America

- Made in America is a one-semester music appreciation course designed to develop an understanding of both musical and cultural roots of American popular music and the ability to hear a direct relationship between those roots and current popular music. No music training is required. There will be a great deal of listening to the music of all styles of pop music and their influences, discussion of the creators and artists behind the songs, as well as viewing important video footage chronicling the history and development of this unique art form.

# Art

- **Art Appreciation** Students use a variety of mediums and techniques in drawing and painting, focusing on historical and cultural aspects. Students will create art as an expression of emotions.
- **Arts and Crafts** This class is a hands-on approach to experimenting with the various media of art through a cultural approach. Students will explore the elements of art and design and begin to understand how planning and organizing play a vital role in the art-making process.

# Technology

- ◉ **Intro to Technology** This curriculum is an applied discipline designed to promote technological literacy as well as reinforcing students' math, reading, writing and science skills. Group activities emphasize career exploration and critical thinking/problem solving skills.
- ◉ **Applied Technology** Applied Technology consists of Keyboarding, Drafting-Mechanical Drawing, Structural Engineering and Problem Solving Activities

# Spanish

- **Spanish Lifestyles** You will be acquiring and learning the Spanish language through every mode of communication: hearing, reading, speaking, and writing. My goal is to provide you with lots of comprehensible input (CI) in believable, meaningful, repetitive, and varied ways. You'll be acquiring Spanish by hearing it spoken and used in contexts that you'll understand. You will be very active in class— acting, drawing, writing, asking questions, using technology, etc. to be exposed to and create in the target language.
- We focus more on the lifestyles of Latin America and holidays for the appropriate season of that semester. Also, we recreate an engaging restaurant, where students learn to order from a menu, and create dishes from a Spanish speaking country they've researched.
  
- **Spanish Enrichment** You will be acquiring and learning the Spanish language through every mode of communication: hearing, reading, speaking, and writing. My goal is to provide you with lots of comprehensible input (CI) in believable, meaningful, repetitive, and varied ways. You'll be acquiring Spanish by hearing it spoken and used in contexts that you'll understand. You will be very active in class— acting, drawing, writing, asking questions, using technology, etc. to be exposed to and create in the target language.
- We focus more on new ways to enrich the language, and recreate a market where students learn to bargain for products they recreate. Students also understand the value of the Mexican peso and compare it to the American Dollar.



# Health

- ◉ **Health and Wellness** This class is for students who wish to learn how their physical, mental, emotional, and social health work together to give them a balanced sense of wellness. They will study topics such as: decision making, goal setting, physical fitness, nutrition, self-esteem, stress, healthy body weight, conflict, healthy relationships, and several more.
- ◉ **Health ChoicesChoices** This class is for students who wish to take a more in depth look at the body and how it reacts to diseases, substance abuse, and natural change. We will study topics like: tobacco, alcohol, infectious and noninfectious diseases and disorders, personal safety, and changing body as well as revisit previously learned topics.

# Evolution of Games

- Today's professional game designers reuse dynamics from many different types of games in their blockbuster hits. This course gives you the chance to explore ancient cultures, their games, and find out how they designed games using available technology and resources. You will prototype and play board and digital games as well as get hands-on experience creating your own original game.

# Study Skills

- This course is designed as an academic support class. There will be time allotted daily for activities related to individual self-management skills development as well as time for academic support and work completion. Daily activities will be tailored to fit the individual needs of each student.

# Green School 101

- This class is designed for students interested in 'greening' their school by applying the principles of reducing, reusing, recycling and redesigning. Through classroom learning and student-driven projects, students will study the school's systems and then design solutions to make the school more sustainable – conserve resources such as electricity and water, minimize the creation of waste, improve indoor air quality, analyze and re-use items from the waste stream, compost cafeteria scraps, setup a recycling system, etc. Goals for each semester will be based on student interest. By semester's end, students will have a greater understanding of sustainability, and will gain valuable experience in leadership and taking action.

# Green School 102

● This class is designed for students who have developed their knowledge base via Green School 101 and are interested in continuing their project work and learning. Students will continue the objectives of Green School 101, but will study sustainability issues in much more depth as well as develop key skills in systems thinking, entrepreneurship, and activism. Each student will have an individualized learning plan that supports his/her interests and growth. Each student will also work with his/her peers in order to improve the sustainability of our school via teamwork.

# Pre Enrollment Packets

- Preliminary course selections will be February 26<sup>th</sup> for 7<sup>th</sup> grade and March 29<sup>th</sup> for 6<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Pre-Enrollment packets will be handed out on April 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Pre-Enrollment night is April 12<sup>th</sup>. You must bring ALL paperwork to pre-enrollment. It must be filled out.
- Students **MUST** pre-enroll for the next year. Even if a request for courses is turned in, if you do not attend pre-enrollment night, you are not pre-enrolled.
- Students who attend pre-enrollment night have preference when electives are assigned.

# Contact Information

- Please contact either Laura Claborn or Amy Lowry with any questions concerning next year's 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> graders and their pre-enrollment.
- Questions for next year's 9<sup>th</sup> graders should be addressed to Cory Lowry.
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