

MOUNTAIN RIDGE JUNIOR HIGH
8TH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS



REQUIRED CORE CLASS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:



****MATH (full year class)****

52007 – PreAlgebra: This class is designed to give students in depth practice through applying concepts in real-life settings and manipulatives. The class will cover integers, equations, geometric shapes, statistics and probability, problem solving skills, exponential notation, and variables. **PreAlgebra students take math everyday.**

52503 - Algebra: Students **must** take pre-algebra before they can sign up for algebra. This class includes variables, integers, simple equations, inequalities, factoring polynomials, rational expressions, graphing in coordinate planes, quadratic formulas and applications of the above topics.

53003 - Geometry: Students **must** take Algebra before they sign up for this class. This class covers plane (Euclidean) geometry, and straightedge construction, basic logic, and the development axioms, postulates, and theorems. It also introduces basic trigonometric functions.



****ENGLISH (full year class)****

40803 - English 8: Students enrolled in English 8 will continue the study of reading, writing including mechanics and usage, viewing, listening and speaking. Teachers will emphasize the six writing traits and reading strategies. Outside reading and book reports may be required.



****SCIENCE (full year class)****

32403 - Science 8: Focuses on the theme of “change.” Topics from physical, earth, and life science are integrated to illustrate the concept of change in nature. Students will study chemical and physical changes; changes in force, motion, and energy; and changes in the earth’s crust and climate. Hands-on, inquiry-based instruction is used to help students value science as a process for obtaining knowledge based on observable evidence.



****HISTORY (full year class)****

61203 - US History: This course includes the study of political and physical geography, exploration, colonization, the Revolutionary Era, the Constitution and government, westward expansion, the Civil War and Reconstruction. Also include mapping, charting and graphing skills.



****PE (half year class)****

76500- PE: Intermediate PE activities; This class offers a wide range of developmentally appropriate activities that are increasingly complex in content, concept, skill development and execution.

76550- PE: Intermediate PE activities; This class offers a wide range of developmentally appropriate activities that are increasingly complex in content, concept, skill development and execution.



****HEALTH (half year class)****

71000 – Health : Offers students an opportunity to develop knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for practicing lifelong-health enhancing behaviors. This course includes the study of nutrition, physiology of body systems, human development, and consumer skills.



****BUSINESS (half year class)****

81410 - Keyboarding I: A beginning typing course where the student will master touch operation on a computer keyboard. Correct fingering by touch operation and good techniques will receive primary emphasis; speed and accuracy will be given secondary emphasis. The student will learn to format simple reports personal and business letters, and tables. Business communication skills will be integrated throughout the course.



****ACADEMY (core classes)****

Academy is the gifted and talented program. These classes will be offered to qualifying students on an individual basis. Register for classes as if you were NOT in the Academy program. Counselors will adjust Academy student's schedules on an individual basis. Students must test with the District to be admitted to the Academy Program. For more information contact Peggy Crandall at the District office.

ELECTIVE CLASSES:



****MUSIC (full year)****

16603 - Beginning Orchestra: This is an entry level class for beginning students on violin, viola, cello, or bass viol. It is open to students of all grades and is preceded by a four-week "summer strings" session in July to give students specific instruction on their instrument. This school has violas, cellos, and basses for student rental at \$70.00 per year. Violins can be rented or purchased through local music dealers. This Orchestra performs in a concert at the end of each quarter. Intermediate orchestra is appropriate for all students with at least one year prior experience.

17603 - Intermediate Orchestra: This course is offered to students with at least one year experience playing violin, viola, cello, or bass viol. In addition to the quarterly concerts, this orchestra performs for the District Intermediate Orchestra Festival. No audition required if experience criteria is met.

16403 - Beginning Band: Beginning Band is split into Brass and Woodwind classes. Students in beginning band are equipped with the basics of individual and ensemble playing skills, playing position, characteristic tone production, fundamental technique, rhythmic accuracy, and interpretation of music symbols. Most instruments are available for rent from local music store. Instruments such as tuba, euphonium, or French Horn can be rented from MRJR for a \$70 annual fee. **Summer band must be attended** for specific instruction on their instrument. Intermediate band is appropriate for those who can play all 12 major scales.

17403 - Intermediate Band: For those with skills that would suggest a middle comfort level. This will help them to be secure while they develop their playing skills. Students may participate in Jazz Ensemble on a "space available" basis and can audition for Symphonic Band.

16210 – Men's Choir: This class will develop music and rhythm reading as well as pitch perception skills. It will cover a large variety of music styles and will perform at festivals and concerts. Year class.



****MUSIC (half year)****

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16200 – Girls Choir: This class will develop music and rhythm reading as well as pitch perception skills. It will cover a large variety of music styles and will perform at festivals and concerts. Semester class.



****MUSIC AUDITION CLASSES (full year)****

17443- Beginning Percussion: You must audition to get into this class. Requirement of minimum 2 years piano. Class will focus on the fundamentals of percussion. Must take this class before you can audition for the Percussion class.

16453 – Percussion Adv: PREREQUISITE: PIANO AUDITION. This course is offered to students with at least 2 years of piano background and having completed Beginning Percussion. Students will focus primarily on fundamental mallet and snare techniques and other concert and orchestral percussion instruments. Each student is required to bring a practice pad and bell kit to class every day. Students will perform with the Symphonic Band and Concert Bands and as percussion ensembles throughout the school year. District fee for percussion class is \$70.

18411 - Symphonic Band: By audition only. Advanced instrumental ensemble directed toward performing the finest in contemporary, traditional, and classic band literature. There are generally twelve to fifteen performances each year. Contact Band office for details.

17411 - Jazz Band: A year long class, by **audition only**. This is an early morning class. Student must be currently enrolled in another band class. This is an advanced instrumental ensemble directed toward learning and performing big band, jazz, swing and rock styles of music.

18601 - Advanced Orchestra: By teacher recommendation only. Students should be able to play in upper positions and/or take private lessons. In addition to the quarterly concerts, this orchestra performs for numerous Festivals, the Grand Concert, and the school musical. Students will be part of an ensemble of advanced string players directed toward performing the finest in classical and contemporary music.

17201 - SSA Choir: By audition only. Class is for soprano and alto voices. Course involves singing and performances. The basic emphasis of voice and music will be taught, as well as communication skills.

18233 – Advanced Women’s Ensemble: By audition only. Advanced SSA.



****LANGUAGE ARTS (half year)****

95020 - Creative Writing: Students will have the opportunity to write several types of writing, including personal experiences, mysteries, fantasies, essays, poems, children’s stories, etc. They will also study the “seven traits of writing” in depth. They will use this skill to evaluate their own writing and the writing of others.

40840 - Reading and Literature: This class is designed for students who love to read. It assists them in further development of their reading skills- including speed reading. The class focuses on novels and short stories from a variety of genres. Students will also develop their skills in responding to their understanding of the strategies they use while reading.



****FOREIGN LANGUAGE (full year)****

47145 - Spanish 1: This class stresses the four language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students practice the skills by means of dialogue, structure drills, reading selections and written exercises. Creative projects are incorporated.

47505 - German 1: A year class. Students will be taught communicative skills, such as listening, speaking, reading, and writing, and grammar.

47405 - French 1: (Elective Credit) 1.0 credit

A year beginning class. Students will learn to read and write and speak in French. Emphasis will be placed on Vocabulary acquisition.



****FINE ARTS (half year)****

19500 - Drama Intro: This is an introductory study of drama. Areas covered will be stage presence, pantomime voice and diction, introductory theater history, and other various forms of the performing arts.

41910 - Speech/Debate8: This course will enhance students' ability to recognize, describe, and discuss the process of communication and to develop skills and techniques of research, persuasion and organization. Students will study interpersonal and nonverbal communication, problem solving and small group communication, as well as practice public speaking. This is a preparatory class for beginning debate in the 9th grade.

******DANCE CLASSES CANNOT REPLACE PE CREDITS******

78010 - Dance 1 for Girls: This class is an introduction to dance and is the foundation class for all other dance classes at Mt. Ridge Jr. High. This course caters to the beginning dancer, no previous experience is necessary. Students will learn the fundamentals of dance technique and alignment, as well as basic traveling sequences, muscle strengthening activities, and proper attainment of increased flexibility. Many different dance styles will be referred to, but modern dance and the exploration of time, space and energy will be given primary emphasis. Students will be given the opportunity to perform in the Dance Company's end of the semester performance. Students may take this class in place of PE.

78020 - Dance 2: Student's can take Dance 2 after they have successfully completed Dance 1 or Dance 1 accelerated. This Intermediate Dance Class builds on the foundational concepts of time, space and energy found in the beginning classes. An increased emphasis is placed on proper dance technique, strength, stamina, and flexibility. Students will also be challenged more fully in the areas of improvisation and composition. An in-depth focus will be placed upon personal creativity, using various sources for choreographic inspiration. Students will get the opportunity to perform in the Dance Company's semester end performance. This class can be taken in place of PE in 8th grade.

478080 - Social Dance: For Boys and Girls interested in the newest dance craze. Students will be learning the basics of the Fox Trot, Waltz, Swing, and Cha Cha.

11140 – 2D-Art (Art 8) : This intermediate level art class builds on the techniques and theories learned in Art Foundation 1 (Art 7) Students will explore various art media and techniques including, watercolor, drawing, printmaking, etc. Students will also receive more in depth instruction in color, art history, composition, expression and critique skills.

11160 – Ceramics Intro: Ceramics develops basic skills in the creation of 3D forms and pottery from clays. With an emphasis on studio production, this course is designed to develop higher-level thinking, art-related technology skill, art criticism, art history and aesthetics.

11150 – Photography Intro: This class teaches the basics of photography: cameras, lighting, black and white, color, film speed, etc.


****AUDITION CLASSES (full year)****

78043 - Dance Company: by audition and teacher approval. Dance Company represents the school in assemblies, game half-times, and semester concerts. Students must maintain a 2.8 GPA and satisfactory citizenship grades. Early morning rehearsals are mandatory. The Dance Company Class focuses on advanced dance technique, elements of choreography, qualities of performance, teamwork, and professionalism. Members learn the foundations of dance composition through improvisation, dance studies, discussion, and more. While much attention is given to Jazz and Ballet, primary consideration is given to Modern Dance and the study of dance as a fine art.

19863- Stage Crew :

By teacher approval only. Stage crew members learn the mechanics of theater lighting, sound, set and prop construction, set painting, stage management, and technical design. Students must pass the district safety test and be certified to operate all saws located in the school Shop Department and be capable of lifting 50-75 lbs. Students will be involved in all phases of technical theater and may be required to come after school, evenings or early mornings for rehearsals and performances.


****AUDITION CLASSES (half year)****

17502 - Musical Theater: Admission to class is by audition only with limited enrollment, and only taught 2nd semester. This class focuses on the history and performance of the musical theater. Course work includes the study of history, style, and necessary elements of musical theater. This class is performance based with the class preparing and presenting a well-known musical or review from rehearsal to finished production.


****CTE (half year)****

88100 - Technology I: Introduction to Technology is a program open to eighth and ninth grade students. The students are allowed to choose five different activities from a list of forty-plus different areas. Career research, design, problem solving and creative thinking are emphasized. The activities include, in addition to others, the following: safety and orientation (required by all students), materials and processing, modeling technology, research and development, arc welding, electricity, invent-a-game, lathe turned pen, concrete casting, aerospace, computer video editing, architecture and home design, computer numerical control, computer scanning and image editing (Adobe Photoshop), computer music technology, criminology, drafting, computer aided drafting, electronics, earthquake engineering, photography, small gas engines, claymation, weather technology, commercial design (Adobe Illustrator), and digital Photography.

82050 – FACS Exploration Foods: This class is designed to introduce junior high school students to the basics of table setting, proper manners, the new food pyramid, kitchen equipment and safety, safe food handling, correct measuring techniques, cooking terms, eating disorders, the importance of breakfast, and following simple recipes. Foods labs are scheduled approximately 1 per week.

82051 – FACS Exploration Clothing: Students will learn the parts of a sewing machine, how to care for it, and then will make a pin cushion, fuzzy slippers, a sewing kit, a draw string back pack, pajama pants, and a pillow with a ruffled edge. Techniques learned will be fabric and color selection, grain, facings, mitered corners, edge stitching, zipper application, seam finishing, buttonholes, cording, ruffling, applique, and strip piecing.

88310 -Communication Tech: Students will learn to create, store, analyze, manipulate, record and transmit information through four major areas: 1) drafting and design; 2) electronic communications; 3) Audio and visual/multi-media communications; 4) graphic communications. Focus will be on developing the understanding and skill set to work with design and program languages. Students will explore the impacts of communication technology on our society; and they will explore related careers.



**** APPLICATION CLASSES ****

91050 - Peer Tutor (half year class): Students will be involved in peer tutoring students in special education classes in math, English, reading, life skills, and other academic areas.

92001 – Peer Leadership (half year class): This is an academic class that will focus on leadership skills. We will do reading and writing activities, service projects in the school and community, and help to increase school spirit. Activities we will participate in are: anti-bullying presentations, assemblies, red ribbon week, new student orientation and many more.

“CTE Courses do not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, gender, or disabilities.

