

## 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

2013-2014

### Exploratory Program

All students will complete the following four courses if they choose the Exploratory Program.

Each course will meet for nine weeks.

**Art**— Welcome to 20<sup>th</sup> Century Art! Students will learn about some of the major changes in art from the WWII era to present day. This class picks up where 7<sup>th</sup> grade left off. Students will see how the modern advancements made in everyday society were reflected in art more than ever with art taking the form of reflection, social outcry, political statements, emotion, and narratives.

**Computer**— This course will help students develop the technology skills needed for academic success by helping them to develop advanced skills in using Windows, Microsoft Office, and the Internet. They will explore social and ethical issues related to technology as well as discuss the use of technology to locate and evaluate information from a variety of sources. Touch typing skills will also be reinforced. Students will complete the course by taking the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills Assessment, a national technology exam that will help determine their high school computer placement.

**Physical Education**— Eighth grade PE is a class that will help students refine the sports and physical fitness skills that have been practiced in previous years. Activities will be familiar; consistency and repetition in the areas of fitness and sports increase students' success. Leadership skills are emphasized at the 8<sup>th</sup> grade level as they relate both to the playing field and to life.

**Spanish**—The purpose of Spanish in the middle school is to teach an introduction to the Spanish language and culture. A combination of vocabulary, grammar, and culture is taught and the objective of Spanish is to give the students a firm foundation on which to build language skills and to inspire in them an enthusiasm for the language and the culture.

### Music Programs

Participation in music integrates a person's physical, intellectual and expressive qualities. This provides a very positive experience at an influential period in the lives of students. Students that choose band, orchestra or choir will meet each day for the entire year.

**Band**-- The Eighth Grade Band is designed to develop the skills, understandings, and attitudes necessary to properly perform instrumental music. The course content includes the study of technical exercises designed to develop the student's performance ability, plus the study of various styles of music written by many different composers representing different periods of history. Prior experience is not required, but highly encouraged due to the difficulty of music being prepared and techniques being learned. Participation outside class time is required for Concerts, and there are options for additional activities including All-District Band, Solo and Ensemble Festival, and various Honor Bands.

**Orchestra**—The CAL 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade Orchestra class is designed to develop string technique and performance ability to the advancing string student. Class time will include technical development on the instrument and rehearsal of performance literature. Weekly practice logs and concert performances are required for this class. Participation outside class time is required.

**Choir** -- -- Eighth Grade Choir is a non-auditioned group for students desiring to develop and enhance fundamental vocal skills independently and as an ensemble. They will perform as their own ensemble, as well as in combination with 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade choirs. Choir meets every day with the purpose of emphasizing basic choral skills, which include music literacy, sight reading methods, and vocal technique. Students will perform regularly and compete in choral festivals throughout the duration of the class. Participation outside class time is required.

### Study Hall

**Study Hall** – This course is designed for independent quiet study time. Homework help will not be given in class, and this will not be considered time for tutoring. Students will be required to work silently and diligently. Students will be placed in this course with other students of the same grade level and with teachers who teach their grade level. As with other elective options, students and parents will not have a choice as to which period this study hall is scheduled.