Jane Addams Middle School

Elective Descriptions

7th & 8th Grade

2019-2020

Important: Elective course offerings are subject to student interest and teacher availability. Electives are not guaranteed.
Physical Education Department

**Physical Education (7th & 8th grade)**

- Semester

The Physical Education program provides each student with the opportunity to participate in a comprehensive program consisting of skill development, lead up games, team sports, and physical fitness activities. The students receive instruction in skills, rules and strategies associated with the different sports and games as well as learning experiences involving physical conditioning activities, and the components of fitness. The program promotes the spirit of cooperation, leadership, fair play, and friendly competition.

**Competitive Team Sports (7th & 8th grade)**

- Yearlong

This year long class will focus on competitive sports (basketball, soccer, volleyball, baseball, and more). Students will work on their skills to help them become more competitive in different sports. Students will be expected to participate in games and challenges to improve their skills.

**PE Partner (Physical Education Partner) (8th grade)**

- Yearlong

Partner PE program provides an opportunity for students to be partners and supports for students with disabilities in their modified physical education class. The class offerings could include team sports, individual sports, and exercises. Principles taught in this class will follow the physical education core curriculum and enhance teaching and learning skills for students.

Fine Arts Department

**Visual Arts (7th & 8th grade)**

- Semester elective

In this course we will experiment with a variety of materials to create a strong understanding of the basic elements of Art. Some projects will include drawing, painting, clay and collage. Students will work on both two and three-dimensional projects. Along with the projects we will also explore different artists and the style they worked in.

**Ceramics (7th & 8th grade)**

- Semester

In this course students will learn the basic hand-building techniques (coil building, slab building and pinch pot construction). Students will spend the second half of the course designing and carrying out guided independent projects that utilize these hand-building techniques while focusing on the artistic elements of form and shape. In addition, students will have the opportunity to learn the basics of wheel throwing on the potter’s wheel.

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**Introduction to Theatre Arts (all grades)**
- Semester
This class is an introduction to dramatic arts. Emphasis will be placed on dramatic techniques and presentation. The class is structured so that students of different levels can progress at their own pace. Units of study include pantomime, tableaux, character, and improvisation. This is a high energy, out-of-your-seat, creativity-based class. Everyone welcome!

**Advanced Theatre Arts (prerequisite – Introduction to Theatre)**
- Semester
Advanced drama students will continue to practice the skills introduced in Drama I. Students will perform several short plays for the class during the first quarter. The second quarter will be a focused study of one play that we will perform on stage. Possible options include acting roles, costuming, lighting, and props. Introduction to Theatre is a pre-requisite for this class.

**Play Production (all grades)**
- Semester
In this course, students will gain practical knowledge about the behind the scenes needs of plays as they collaborate to design Jane Addams' plays. Study will include, but is not limited to, designing and constructing costumes, sets, and properties, operating light and sound systems, publicity, and educational outreach.

**Yearlong Long Electives**

**STEM Modeling (7th & 8th grade)**
- Yearlong
Be a scientist and engineer! STEM provides innovative, hands-on opportunities in mathematics, basic and applied science, and engineering. Have connections to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Professionals (speakers, mentorships, and access to UW organizations). Go on fabulous STEM based field trips. Participate in Competitions; Prosthetic Arm Challenge, Youth Apps Challenge, Robotics Competition, etc. Attend MESA Day and Awards Reception.

**Leadership (7th & 8th grade)**
- Yearlong
Leadership is an elective that brings together a diverse group of students from different backgrounds to set the tone for student voice at JAMS. This group is in charge of planning, hosting, and creating our assemblies as well as providing assistance to big events, such as: Native American heritage month, Veterans Day, African American history month, Multicultural Night, and the school talent show just to name a few.
AVID (7th & 8th grade)
  • Yearlong
Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) is an academic elective that prepares students for college readiness and success. Each week, students receive instruction utilizing a rigorous college preparatory curriculum, tutor-facilitated study groups, motivational activities, and academic survival skills. The course emphasizes rhetorical reading, analytical writing, collaborative discussion strategies, tutorial inquiry study groups, preparation for college entrance and placement exams, college study skills and test-taking strategies, note-taking, and research.

Journalism (7th & 8th grade)
  • Yearlong
  • You must submit an application which is available in the Main Office; you cannot select this via the online registration system.
The students in this course will be responsible for publishing the JAMS yearbook, Paw Print school newspaper, and audio journalism. (Participation in this course is not required to be a member of the yearbook or newspaper staffs.) In Journalism class, we’ll practice all aspects of publishing and communications, including writing, photography, design, and editorial decision making. We will develop awareness and understanding of news elements and gain experience in gathering, reporting, and editing the news of life at our school.

Music Department

Guitar Lab 1 (all grades)
  • Yearlong
Open to all students interested in learning to play the guitar. Students in the class will learn the basic skills and concepts to gain a rudimentary proficiency. Students will learn how to handle and tune a guitar and will be introduced to chord and rhythm reading. Basic strumming and plucking techniques in playing styles from classical to folk and rock will be presented. The school provides guitars for in class use.

Guitar Lab 2 (all grades)
  • Yearlong
  • Must have completed Guitar 1 or have teacher permission
Guitar Lab 2 is an advanced guitar class for students who have a basic understanding of the guitar and are interested in building their music theory and playing skills.

ORCHESTRA
  • All orchestra classes are yearlong.
  • All grades
  • Placement is based on audition and/or SPS teacher recommendations.

Beginning Orchestra: This course is for students who have had no previous training on a string instrument. Students will learn the basic techniques of posture, caring for the instrument and bow, position, bowing
techniques, fingerings, and basic reading of rhythms and notes. The ensemble will begin learning songs in unison and progress to playing as a multi-part ensemble. Students will perform in three concerts.

**Intermediate Orchestra:** This course is for students with at least one year of instrument study who have met the audition requirements. Students in the class will benefit from further instruction in music reading and performance fundamentals with their chosen instrument. There will be three concerts scheduled during the year for this group.

**Junior Orchestra:** This course requires two years of instrument study and an audition. Students in this group are at an advanced level of instrumental technique and reading proficiency (demonstrating shifting and developing vibrato). There will be three school concerts as well as other festivals and performances outside of school. Admission is by audition or teacher approval.

**Senior Orchestra** - This course is for students who have successfully completed Junior Orchestra, or who demonstrate the required skills in an audition. Students will expand their knowledge and skills through instrumental technique and literature and will explore more advanced concepts of ensemble playing. There will be three school concerts as well as other festivals and performances outside of school. Travel will be required. Admission is by audition or teacher approval.

**Chamber Orchestra** - This course focuses on advancing listening skills and playing techniques with the goal of making friends, having fun, and preparing students for successful participation in Seattle’s premier high school orchestras. A high level of commitment to personal excellence and dedication to the team will be expected. Travel to local and regional festivals and participation in community-based events will also be required. Admission is by audition only.

**VOCAL ENSEMBLES**

- Music classes are yearlong.

**Choir (all grades)** - is open to all Jane Addams students. Students will rehearse and perform a variety of choral music. There will be an emphasis on using solfege, sight-reading, developing aural perception (ear training), and basic music theory. While no audition is required for choir, students are expected to be highly motivated and reflect an advanced ensemble attitude.

**Intermediate Choir (7th & 8th grade)** - The intermediate choir is for 7th and 8th grade students who have successfully participated in choir at Jane Addams. Students will expand their sight-reading and music theory while focusing on performance techniques. Students are expected to be highly motivated and reflect an advanced ensemble attitude. Admission is by audition only.

**Advance Choir (audition required)** - The advanced choir is for 7th and 8th grade students who have successfully participated in choir at Jane Addams. Students will expand their sight-reading and music theory while focusing on performance techniques. Students are expected to be highly motivated and reflect an advanced ensemble attitude. Admission is by audition only.
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BAND
- All band classes are yearlong.
- All grades
- Placement is based on audition and/or SPS teacher recommendations.

**Beginning Band:** This class is directed at students who have little or no instrumental music training. There will be time given to allow students to explore the instrument choices to better help them make the right decision on what they will choose for the year. Students will learn essential concepts and skills and will perform in three school concerts.

**Intermediate Band:** This ensemble requires at least one year of middle school or two years of elementary instrumental experience and teacher approval. Students will continue to build their musical literacy and instrumental technique. There will be three concerts scheduled during the year for this group. Please review the classroom policies and concert attire guidelines.

**Junior Band:** This ensemble requires successful completion of Intermediate Band or its equivalent and an audition. Students will expand their knowledge and skills through instrumental technique and literature. There will be three school concerts as well as other festivals and performances outside of school. Travel will be required.

**Senior Band:** This ensemble requires successful completion of Junior Band or its equivalent. Students will expand their knowledge and skills through instrumental technique and literature as well as explore more advanced concepts of ensemble playing. There will be three school concerts as well as other festivals and performances outside of school. Travel will be required. Admission is by audition or teacher approval.

**Senior Jazz:** This class focuses on advancing listening skills and playing techniques within the big band jazz idiom with the goal of making friends, having fun, and preparing students for successful participation in Seattle’s premier high school jazz ensembles. A high level of commitment to personal excellence and dedication to the team will be expected. A week-long intensive day camp in August is required for all ensemble members. Travel to local and regional festivals and participation in community-based events will also be required. Admission is by audition only.
World Language Department

WORLD LANGUAGES

- All World Language classes are yearlong electives.

**Spanish (1A) (6th & 7th grade)**
This is a year-long course. Students learn the sounds, grammar and the syntax of the language interactively through conversations, stories and songs. This course undertakes the study of the present tense as well as other basic structures that allow students to express themselves in simple sentences. This course is taught using a communicative approach, so students often work in groups and pairs as they build language skills and begin to learn about Spanish culture. Cultural enrichment is offered to students through videos, current events, readings, music, storytelling and projects. This course not only aims to teach students to understand, speak, read, and write Spanish at a basic level, but also to interest them in the life and culture of Spanish-speaking people.

**Spanish (1B) (7th & 8th grade)**
This is a year-long course for seventh and eighth grade students who have previously taken Spanish 1A. This course continues building on prior knowledge from Spanish 1A. Study of the past tense is introduced, as well as other basic structures, which allow students to express themselves in more dynamic sentences. Cultural enrichment is offered to students through videos, current events, readings, music, storytelling and projects. This course not only aims to teach students to understand, speak, read, and write Spanish at a novice level, but also to interest them in the life and culture of Spanish-speaking people. Some specific topics covered in this class: food and cuisine, clothing and fashion, expressions used during travel, daily routine, cultural pastimes, health and fitness, continuation of present tense conjugations, introduction of the past tense conjugations of regular and irregular verbs, and reflexive verbs.

**Spanish (2A) (8th grade)**
This is a year-long course for eighth grade students who have taken two years of middle school Spanish. This course continues to build on prior knowledge of Spanish 1A and 1B and is equivalent to the second year high school course. Students should expect regular homework as this is a high school level course.

**First year French (1A) (6th & 7th grade)**
This is a year-long introductory course for sixth and seventh grade students. French 1A is considered to be the first semester of high school French 1. This course undertakes the study of the present tense as well as other basic structures that allow students to express themselves in simple sentences. Cultural enrichment is offered to students through videos, current events, readings, music, storytelling and projects.

This course not only aims to teach students to understand, speak, read, and write French at a basic level, but also to interest them in the life and culture of French-speaking people. Some specific topics covered in this class: alphabet, colors, greetings, introducing yourself and others, discussing likes and dislikes, describing yourself and other people, hobbies, numbers, telling time, days of the week, seasons, months, weather, food, and present tense conjugations.

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Second year French (1B) (7th & 8th grade)
This is a year-long course for seventh and eighth grade students. This course continues building on prior knowledge from French 1A and where students left off in their *Bon Voyage!* textbook. French 1B is considered to be the second semester of high school French 1. The study of the past tense is introduced, as well as other basic structures, which allow students to express themselves in more dynamic sentences. Cultural enrichment is offered to students through videos, current events, readings, music, storytelling and projects.

This course not only aims to teach students to understand, speak, read, and write French at a novice level, but also to interest them in the life and culture of French-speaking people. Some specific topics covered in this class: food and cuisine, clothing and fashion, travelling via airplane and train, sports, seasons (summer and winter), daily routine, cultural pastimes, health and medicine, seasons, continuation of present tense conjugations, introduction of the past tense conjugations of regular and irregular verbs, and reflexive verbs.

Third year French (2) (8th grade)
This is a year-long course for eighth grade students who have taken two years of middle school French (French 1A and French 1B are pre-requisites). This course continues building on prior knowledge from French 1A/1B as we continue along with the *Bon Voyage!* textbook for Level 2. French 2 is equivalent to the high school French 2 and is considered to be a high school course. Students who successfully complete French 2 at JAMS are eligible to receive high school credit for French and can begin the 9th grade in French 3. This course will be at a much quicker pace than that of French 1A/1B and students should expect to receive homework every night.

The study of the past tense is continued in more detail, as well as other basic structures, which allow students to express themselves in more dynamic and lengthily paragraphs. Cultural enrichment is offered to students through videos, current events, readings, music, storytelling and projects. This course not only aims to teach students to understand, speak, read, and write French at an intermediate level, but also to interest them in the life and culture of French-speaking people. Some specific topics covered in this class: leisure activities, health and wellness, technology, travel by train and by car, food preparation and kitchen use, driving on the highway and reading maps, accidents and the emergency room, emotions and manners, professions, and holidays. Grammar topics include: introductions of the imperfect, subjunctive, the conditional, the future tense, interrogative and relative pronouns, continuation of present tense and past tense conjugations of regular, irregular verbs, and reflexive verbs.