

# Shawnee Heights Middle School

## 8th Grade 2020-21 Course Selections

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Advisor \_\_\_\_\_

### Required All Year Classes

English, American History, Math, Science, Advisor

### Required 9 Weeks Classes

\_\_\_ Health \_\_\_ or Healthy Lifestyles (**MUST CHOOSE 1**), ELA Elective (.5 total, choose below)

**\*You must choose a total of .5 hours from the ELA Electives and 2.5 hours from the Elective Semester and Year Long Courses**

<p><b><u>Elective Semester Courses:</u></b> <b>*Please prioritize your Semester Elective choices 1=Highest interest, 2, 3, 4, 5=lowest interest.</b></p> <p>___ Advanced Music Appreciation (.5)</p> <p>___ Art (.5)</p> <p>___ Design (.5)</p> <p>___ Digital Industrial Art (.5)</p> <p>___ FACS Life Planning (.5)</p> <p>___ Foundations of Personal Finance (.5)</p> <p>___ Intro to Business 8 (.5)</p> <p>___ Intro to Computer Coding (.5)</p> <p>___ Leadership Studies (.5)</p> <p>___ Light in the Darkness (.5)</p> <p>___ Physical Education 8 (.5)</p> <p>___ Robotics II (Programming &amp; Design) (.5)</p> <p>___ Strength and Conditioning (.5)</p> <p>___ Vocal Music (.5) (Do not select Vocal Music as a semester long elective if you choose it as a year long elective)</p>	<p><b><u>REQUIRED: ELA Elective</u></b> <b>*Please prioritize your ELA Elective choices 1=Highest interest, 2, 3=lowest interest.</b></p> <p>___ Watch out for that Butterfly (effect)! Time Travel Literature and Exploring Change (.5)</p> <p>___ Creeping it Real: Exploring Teen Issues with Horror (.5)</p> <p>___ Social Justice and Short Stories (.5)</p> <p><b><u>Elective Year Courses:</u></b></p> <p>___ Band 8 (1.0)</p> <p>___ Orchestra 8 (1.0)</p> <p>___ Spanish I (1.0)</p> <p>___ German (1.0)</p> <p>___ Year Long Vocal Music (1.0) (When entering your choices into PowerSchool, to elect year long choir you will have to enroll in Vocal Music for both the semester long and year long electives)</p> <p><b><u>List four alternates (you may list a 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester of P.E. or Strength and Conditioning as an alternate)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• _____ (alternate 1)</li><li>• _____ (alternate 2)</li><li>• _____ (alternate 3)</li><li>• _____ (alternate 4)</li></ul>
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Parent signature \_\_\_\_\_

If you have questions or concerns, please contact the 8th grade counselor at Shawnee Heights Middle School 785-379-5830



# **Eighth Grade Course Descriptions 2020-2021**

## **9 Week (1 Quarter) Courses**

### **ELA Electives**

Each student will take one English Language Arts Elective (ELA). On the course enrollment form, students will select a first, second and third choice of elective. The course descriptions are below.

### **Watch Out for that Butterfly (effect)! Time Travel Literature & Exploring Change**

The past is the past, right? Well, not with time travel! We see time travel represented in television, movies, and literature from *The Time Machine* by H.G. Wells to the alternate timelines in *The Flash* to *Doctor Who*, and, of course, *Back to the Future*. From time loop stories to alternate timelines to stories about the butterfly effect, the possibilities are as limitless as time travel itself! In every instance of time travel, characters must come to terms with the consequences of certain actions to explore what we can and cannot change. In this class, we will explore time travel in all its forms to find common themes relevant to all teens such as creating change, discussions of identity, and even mental health. Assignments will include writing exercises, reading, group presentations, and a great deal of class discussion.

### **Creeping It Real: Exploring Teen Issues with Horror.**

Make no bones about it—a day in the life of a teenager can have as many plot twists as any horror novel where no one ever knows what may lurk around the corner or under a bed! In this elective class, you will explore fearsome and frightful works by famous authors like Shirley Jackson, H.P. Lovecraft, Edgar Allan Poe, and more. Through literary activities and discussion, students will connect themes in horror literature, urban legends, and lore to modern teen issues and interests such as bullying, mental health, relationships, peer pressure, etc. Gather your wits and your best guy- or ghoulish-friends to dive into the exciting genre of horror lit. Keep one eye open for nine full weeks of terrifying tales that you won't want to miss!

### **Social Justice and Short Stories**

Buckle up because you are going on a thrilling ride this quarter in ELA! We will travel into horrifying and suspenseful short stories such as “The Monkey’s Paw”, “The Lottery”, “The Yellow Wallpaper”, and other chilling pieces of literature written by Edgar Allan Poe. On this haunting journey we will discuss relevant and controversial topics such as class and status (poverty vs. wealth), feminism, group superiority, wrongful persecution, and many more intriguing topics all while reading horror and thriller short stories that will keep you on your toes!

### **\*Students must select to take Health 8 or Healthy Lifestyles 8**

#### **\*Health 8**

Eighth grade health is a nine-week course that involves a variety of current health issues. This course includes the study of the skin, nutrition, and issues involving the effects of tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs. Human sexuality is also taught. As a result, students will gain an understanding of social, emotional, physical and mental growth that occurs during adolescence.

## **\*Healthy Lifestyles 8**

This nine-week course will emphasize wellness and a healthy lifestyle. The areas covered in the framework will include: 1) The functions of the skin and how to maintain the health of your skin. 2) Substance abuse, specifically cigarettes, marijuana and alcohol. 3) Nutrition, using on-line computer programs and **actual exercise to enhance application**. 4) How the lack of exercise and improper diet can lead to diseases such as atherosclerosis, heart disease, and cancer. 5) Human sexuality, which will cover abstinence, human reproduction, pregnancy and fetal development.

## **18 Week (Semester) Courses** **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Art**

Get ready to experiment in 3D! This is a project-based class where students will learn the elements and principles of art and apply that knowledge as they create in 3D with a plaster-embedded gauze mask, a wire and nylon netting sculpture, and a clay slab vessel. Students will also work with 2D media as they create a perspective drawing, a creative transformation drawing, and a collaged artwork. In addition, students will create a short-animated clip utilizing iPads. This class will expose students to a variety of art paths to follow while at the high school as well as encourage creative thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving skills needed in today's workforce.

### **Vocal Music**

**(May be taken as a 1 semester or a year-long course)**

In this semester course, we rehearse choir music daily, develop music reading skills, and prepare to perform in concert. Students should enroll in this course if they enjoy singing and want to be part of a music ensemble. Vocalists will be challenged with a variety of songs, including popular, standards and choral music. Proper vocal techniques, such as vowel placement, intonation, and use of register will be taught and reinforced daily. Learning to sight-sing, using solfege, and good musicianship are also emphasized. This course is designed to prepare students for the demands of the high school choir program.

### **Advanced Music Appreciation 8**

Students who are interested in gaining a greater appreciation and understanding of music should take this music option. Students do not need to play an instrument or sing to be in the class, however, it is a good class for instrumentalists and vocalists who want to further their knowledge in music. We will study the different elements of music, instruments from around the world, learn about your favorite music genres and Broadway musicals, music time periods, as well as how to use GarageBand. Instruments that we will play include rhythm instruments, bucket drums, boomwhackers, and the ukulele. Upon completion of this class, students will be able to listen critically to music and evaluate musical qualities. Students will better understand how music influences their lives and the world around them and will be prepared to further their studies in music.

### **Design**

Students will study the elements of art and the principles of design and apply that knowledge to two- and three-dimensional projects. Areas of focus will be qualities of a good composition, drawing what the eye sees, painting, pastels, and sculpture, which will require creative thinking and problem solving. Students will also study design related career paths and produce a project based on their interest. Design is required for the following high school courses: Painting, Ceramics, Sculpture, Commercial Art, and Jewelry. Special Advisory: A Design credit earned at the middle school fulfills the SHHS design prerequisite. While in high school, students must earn an additional fine art credit to pursue admission into a Kansas Regents University (i.e. take another fine arts credit at SHHS if you plan to attend college.)

## **Digital Industrial Art**

8<sup>th</sup> grade Digital Industrial Art will expose the student to 2D/3D animation through a range of traditional and digital techniques used in stop-motion, Claymation, and 2D or 3D computer animation. Also, students will develop drawing skills, study the fundamental principles of character design, layout, and storyboarding. Throughout the course, students will explore the career path of animation. While exploring and learning about this career path, students will create their own movie, T.V. show, video game, etc. complete with fully rendered characters, storyboard, and a finished clip/trailer of the product itself.

## **Robotics Programming & Design - “Robotics II”**

Robotics II exposes students to 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills and provides students with hands-on application of math and science concepts utilized in the real world. Students will apply the Science and Engineering Practices of defining problems, developing and using models, planning and carrying out investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, using mathematics and computational thinking, designing solutions, and obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information through robotics. The objective of this course is to introduce the student to basic programming as well as problem solving strategies. This course will involve students in the development, building and programming of a VEX EDR robot. Students will work hands-on in teams to design, build, program and document their progress.

## **Foundations of Personal Finance**

The purpose of this course is centered around learning key financial concepts and becoming financially literate into the teen years and beyond. The course will be taught from the perspective of a young adult who is navigating life on their own for the first time. Students will learn how to fill out a W-4 form, open a bank account, balance an account and use checks / debit cards. Students will explore debt including loans and credit cards and how to make informed decisions about debt versus saving. Students will also learn about the stock market, investing in mutual funds, and how compound interest works for long-term retirement and wealth building. Other topics to be studied include purchasing vehicles and homes, budgeting, completing their first federal and state tax forms and other special topics.

## **FACS Life Planning**

This Family & Consumer Science course has been combined with career and life planning skills to allow students to explore the FACS curriculum and get a taste of the working world. Areas that will be focused upon are:

- Personality Development, with emphasis on getting along with others in life and on the job.
- Nutrition & Food Preparation, with emphasis on a healthy lifestyle while learning how to read and follow directions and work as a member of a team.
- Career Exploration, with an emphasis on researching areas of interest (not just FACS related careers) and use of the Occupational Outlook Handbook
- Financial Literacy, where students will learn about budgeting, checking accounts, and consumerism.

## **Intro to Computer Coding**

Intro to Computer Coding is a basic computer science course where students learn how to think like a computer programmer. Using a variety of coding sites and iPad applications, student will learn a variety of coding languages. Swift Playgrounds is a free iPad app from Apple that helps anyone learn coding fundamentals by writing in Swift. Students learn coding by completing interactive puzzles that teach key programming concepts in a way that’s both fun and challenging, building confidence and skill. Students will write code to create programs that guide a character through a series of puzzles in an interactive graphical world. The program’s students create

run right beside their code so they can see how to adjust the code until the puzzle is solved. Students will learn other languages in addition to Swift. HTML/CSS and JavaScript will also be introduced.

## **Intro to Business 8**

This course provides students with an introduction to a variety of skills used in the business world and in their own personal lives. Using real-life scenarios, group work, and computers, the student will experience valuable business and personal life skills. Course content will include: ethics, the study of money, career surveys, basic job-hunting skills, checking accounts, paychecks, accounting, budgeting, advertising, and consumer shopping techniques.

## **Leadership Studies**

“I have a dream...that one day, all of you will be enrolled in Leadership Studies!” Do YOU know who gave the famous “I Have a Dream” speech? The great leader, Martin Luther King Jr. Do you aspire to be like MLK? Or do you wonder what made him so great? In Leadership Studies, students will focus on building their own character and will also focus on the different characteristics that make a leader. The class will provide students with academic knowledge and hands-on learning experiences that will advance their education and drive about leadership. The class will consist of lecture, individual projects, group volunteer projects, presentations, and current connections.

## **Light in the Darkness**

Light and the Darkness will combine concepts of psychology, history, and science. Throughout this course students will study mindfulness and learn techniques to promote focus and clarity of purpose for academics and social relationships. The students will learn about how humans are impacting the earth and we can have less impact on the environment. The students will read the book Unbroken and discuss major concepts about WWII and the resiliency and courage of soldiers who fought in and survived the war. One unique aspect of this class is tending the SHMS school garden. The relationship between gardening, mindfulness and personal fitness have been well established. Students will learn basic principles of mindfulness, the importance of resilience, and how to focus on the positive.

## **Physical Education 8**

This course will allow students to demonstrate health related fitness skills of muscular strength, muscular endurance, flexibility and cardiovascular fitness. The emphasis will be on how to assess physical fitness needs in the following ways: assess their heart rate, assess their own fitness levels, and know the difference between aerobic and anaerobic conditioning. Students will also know the relationship between body composition and fitness. We will utilize strategies in sport, recreational, reading, writing and problem solving.

## **Strength and Conditioning**

**SHMS Strength and Conditioning class will focus on the 5 Components of Physical Fitness.**

1. **Cardiovascular Fitness** – Cardiovascular fitness (also known as cardiorespiratory fitness) is the ability of the heart, lungs and vascular system to deliver oxygen-rich blood to working muscles during sustained physical activity.
2. **Muscular Strength** – Muscular strength is the amount of force a muscle or muscle group can exert against a heavy resistance.
3. **Muscular Endurance** – Muscular endurance is the ability of a muscle or muscle group to repeat a movement many times or to hold a particular position for an extended period of time.
4. **Flexibility** – Flexibility is the degree to which an individual muscle will lengthen.
5. **Body composition** – body composition is the amount of fat in the body compared to the amount of lean mass (muscle, bones etc.).

## **36 Week (Year Long) Courses**

### **Band 8**

Students with 3 years of experience or the instructor's permission may enroll in this class. The students will perform concert band literature in 3 concerts through the year, learn basic music theory, develop technique and tone on their instruments, and cooperatively learn with other band students. Students in this class also perform at 2 to 4 pep band events (basketball games) per year. This class, in many cases, will go to a festival to be judged. This course will meet every day for a full year.

### **Orchestra 8**

Students with three years or more experience on a stringed instrument are encouraged to enroll in orchestra. Instruction will include review of basic playing skills and techniques such as vibrato, positions work and various bowing styles. A wide variety of music will be performed. Several performances will be scheduled. This course meets every day for a full year.

### **Spanish I**

This course is a beginning level high school Spanish class. It meets for a full year. This class helps the student to develop good pronunciation, rhythm, intonation and understanding of the Spanish language. Emphasis is given in vocabulary development, grammatical concepts, writing and reading comprehension. The student will learn about the Hispanic culture through special projects, conversations, and audio-visual presentations. The grade you receive in eighth grade Spanish will be part of your official high school transcript. It will count for credit but not GPA. If you decide to repeat this class in the ninth grade, both grades will remain on the transcript, however, only the high school grade will be computed for credit and GPA. \*Prerequisite required: A or B in Seventh Grade English.

### **German I**

German Level I is a two semester course that serves as an introduction to the study of the German language. Students will develop four basic skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing in German. Special emphasis will be placed on vocabulary development, grammatical concepts, writing and reading comprehension.

Students completing this course will...

1. Be able to carry a basic conversation in German.
2. Be introduced to regular and irregular verbs in present tense of the indicative.
3. Be able to read and understand a text lesson.
4. Be able to listen and respond orally to questions concerning the text.
5. Practice German grammar concepts in writings and speech.

The grade you receive in German I will be part of your official high school transcript. It will count for credit but not GPA. If you decide to repeat this class in the ninth grade, both grades will remain on the transcript, however, the high school grade will be computed for credit and GPA. Prerequisite required: A or B in Seventh Grade English.

