

**2020-21 MESA VERDE MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**8<sup>th</sup> GRADE ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

**Electives are offered based on student request and space availability.**

**ADVANCED BAND** - This full year course is open to 7th and 8th grade students by teacher recommendation only. Advanced Band students will perform a minimum of four concerts per year, including our district music festival. 8th Grade students in this band will perform along with other 8th grade band students at various activities, including the Westview Gold Band Program and, in some cases, the Mt. Carmel Band Program.

**WIND ENSEMBLE** - This full year course is open to advanced 8th grade students and selected 7th grade students by teacher recommendation only. Wind Ensemble students will perform high school caliber music, with a minimum of four concerts per year, including our district music festival. Eighth grade students in this band will perform along with other 8th grade students at various activities, including the Westview Gold Band Program and, in some cases, the Mt. Carmel Band Program. Many students take private lessons, although it is not required.

**ORCHESTRA** - This class is for students with at least one year of experience with a stringed instrument (violin, viola, cello, string bass). Students will further skills on musical instruments and perform different styles of music. A greater emphasis is placed on individual and group performance. Students will perform in concerts and festivals on and off campus. Students provide their own instruments. School cellos and basses are available to use at school only.

**CHORUS** - This is a year-long course, where students will learn proper vocal and choral technique through a variety of music genres, including classical, popular, and musical theatre. California State Music Standards are incorporated into the grading requirements. Students will learn basic choreography and acting in addition to vocal training, music history and theory. NOTE: Requirements for this course include attendance at our performances and festivals which may take place outside of the school day. All dates are given at the start of each semester with a returned parent signature required.

**DRAMA** - This course is a beginning study of theater with an in-depth look at the structure of Western theater and plays. Included are basic character development, voice and diction, stage/body positioning, and improvisational exercises. Students may be required to attend performances of school, community or professional plays and movies and critique them. By the end of the year, students will have acted out basic scenes/short plays and/or a series of pantomimes that will build confidence in their vocal and physical abilities to communicate.

**ART** - Art students learn about the visual arts by creating their own 2D and 3D works of art, challenging their creativity, and exploring current and past artists through the California Art Standards. Projects may include drawing, painting, collage, paper mache, sewing, ceramics, and photography. Students may have the opportunity to exhibit their artwork on and off campus. This is an engaging, hands-on class with no prior experience necessary.

**Students in their second year of MVMS art** will experience all new projects, including some new mediums such as graphic design, wire and plaster sculpture, and weaving.

**EXPLORING LATIN AMERICAN CULTURE AND EXPLORATORY SPANISH** - This is a class for the student who would like to explore a foreign culture. It focuses on some beginning concepts and principles of basic Spanish. It includes cultural components that highlight some of the differences between American and Latino culture. It offers students an opportunity to develop their skills in listening, reading, speaking, writing, and their sensitivity to cultural difference. (This course does not count as high school foreign language credit, which is only available in 8<sup>th</sup> grade Spanish 1-2)

**SPANISH 1-2** - This course offers students an opportunity to develop their skills in speaking, listening, reading, and writing through grammar, oral practice, games, and projects. Students will be introduced to the culture of the Spanish speaking countries. Enrolling students need **STRONG BASIC SKILLS** in English (B average), and in Math (B average recommended), as well as good study habits and a commitment to learning as a prerequisite for success. Upon successful completion of this course, students will earn the equivalent of one year of high school foreign language credit, which may be used toward A - G college entrance requirements. However, the credit does not count toward high school graduation requirements or high school GPA.

**EXPLORING TECHNOLOGY** - This course gives students the opportunity to explore different technology topics, such as an introduction to technology, and is STEM based.

**DIGITAL MEDIA PRODUCTION I** - This program serves as an introduction to the design of digital photography and videography as well as graphic designs and web publishing.