



Rampello K-8 Middle School Elective Guide

Electives Available 2023-2024

Art Department

- **Creating 2D Art:** Students explore media and techniques used to create a variety of two-dimensional artwork. Students will be developing skills in drawing, painting, printmaking, and collage. Students practice, sketch, and manipulate the structural elements of art. Investigation of artworks from Western and non-Western cultures provide a means for students to expand their understanding and appreciation of the role of art in global culture. Student artists use an art criticism process to evaluate, explain, and measure artistic growth in personal or group works.
- **Creating 3D Art:** Students learn to translate their two-dimensional skills into three dimensional forms through the exploration of natural, abstract, and synthetic sculptural forms using materials that may include, but are not limited to, clay, plaster, and mixed media for creative expression. These student artists develop perceptual, creative, technical, and problem-solving skills in a sculptural context as they design and produce works of art with personal expression. Students will also focus on use of safety procedures for process, media, and techniques.

AVID Department

- **AVID 2/3 (Approval required):** The official AVID mission is to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in global society. Students in AVID participate in field trips to high schools and colleges, work on academic, social, and organizational skills, take part in team building and motivational activities, and help with fundraisers/charity drives. These students also have access to quality tutors and are held to a high standard both behaviorally and academically. The curriculum is based on the WICOR method, which stands for writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization, and reading. **Students must complete both an application and interview to be chosen for AVID.**

Journalism Department

- **Journalism 1 (8th graders, approval required):** Students will learn writing, photography, and journalism skills while producing the Rampello yearbook. Students may also practice broadcasting skills assisting in the morning show as well. **Students must complete an application and interview to be chosen for the yearbook staff and this course.**

Music Department

- **Symphonic Band 2/3:** This band class is for 7th and 8th grade students who have not had the opportunity to enroll in beginning band in 6th grade AND students who have completed band previously. Students with no prior band experience will have the opportunity to learn how to play a band instrument and also work with students who have experience in the music program! They will also learn other basic musical concepts and theory such as reading music, understanding basic music theory, counting and listening skills. Students will also learn how to play instruments in both as an individual and in a group setting. Emphasis is also placed on developing and refining basic musical skills and the techniques required for advancement to the Wind Ensemble. The choices of instruments for this class are as follows: Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, Saxophone, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Baritone, Tuba and Percussion. **Participation in concerts will be required.**
- **Wind Ensemble Band 2/3:** Wind Ensemble is designed for students (primarily 7th and 8th grade) to continue their development of the skills and artistry required by their chosen instrument. The students will acquire a greater understanding and appreciation of the performing arts. They will also be introduced to advanced rehearsal techniques, vigorous performances to help them become better performers, musicians, and ensemble players. Emphasis is on developing strong musicianship and leadership within the ensemble. **This ensemble is INVITATION ONLY. Participation in concerts and outside of school events will be required.**
- **Orchestra 2/3:** Orchestra is open to all students who play an orchestral string instrument (violin, viola, cello, bass) or for new students who have no experience. Orchestra provides an academic opportunity for participation in instrumental ensemble playing. Special attention is given to forming proper habits regarding ensemble routine, resonant tone production, intonation, rhythm, critical listening, instrumental technique and musical interpretation through skill study and participation. Orchestra offers students the opportunity to study and perform a variety of musical literature of accepted value at an appropriate level of difficulty. **Student participation in orchestral events outside the school day such as concerts and rehearsals will be expected.**
- **Chorus 2/3:** Chorus is open to all students who love to sing. In chorus, students will learn basic music reading, vocal techniques and proper breathing for vocal performance. Students will also participate in large group performances. No prior voice lessons required. **Participation in performances and outside of school events will be required.**

World Languages Department

- **Beginning Spanish:** This course introduces students to the language and its culture. Students will learn beginning skills in listening and speaking and an introduction to basic skills in reading and writing. Also, culture, connections, comparisons, and communities are included in this one-year course.
- **Spanish 1 (8th graders, High School Credit):** This course introduces students to the language and its culture. The student will develop communicative skills in all 3 modes of communication and cross-cultural understanding. Emphasis is placed on proficient communication in the language. An introduction to reading and writing is also included, as well as culture, connections, comparisons, and communities. **This is a high school credit course that impacts students' high school GPA.**