Incoming 8ᵗʰ Grade Elective Course Descriptions - 2021/2022

1) **Fundamentals of Ag, Food, & Natural Resources:** Students will learn about the evolution and changes in production agriculture at a World, National, State, and Community level. A focus on agricultural jobs and the changes in the food production chain.

2) **Ag Foundations (HS Credit)**: Students will learn about the different areas in agriculture. Some of the areas that will be studied are agricultural history and the global impact of agriculture; career opportunities; scientific and research concepts; biological and physical science principles; environmental principles; agriscience safety; principles of leadership; and agribusiness, employability, and human relations skills in agriscience.

3) **Ag Communication 2 (HS Credit):** Students will learn about communication sectors of the agricultural industry instruction including instruction in developing and editing materials for printed media and media broadcast, utilizing photography and graphics, the importance of communications, writing technical papers and media scripts and ethical and professional issues in the industry. **Ag Foundations is a pre-requisite and cannot be taken the same year.**

4) **2D Studio Art 1:** Students explore media and techniques used to create a variety of 2D artworks through developing skills in drawing, painting, printmaking and collage. Students practice, sketch and manipulate the elements of and principles of design. 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. Exploring 2D/3D Art is recommended before taking this class.

5) **Exploring 2D Art/3D Art:** Students will explore different media and techniques in 2D and 3D art work, from both historical and contemporary perspective, as they create both 2D and 3D art work. 2D work may include drawing, painting, printmaking and/or collage. 3D work may include clay, plaster and/or mixed media. Students reflect on their own art work and others through critical analysis and use the elements of art and principles of design to achieve artistic goals related to craftsmanship, technique and application.

6) **AVID 8:** Advancement via Individual Determination. AVID is a program that prepares students to become advocates for their own learning. This academic elective supports all disciplines with study skills, tutorial sessions, peer mentoring, and collaboration. Students will learn how to take class notes and develop good study habits. They will discover their learning style and learn how to make it work for them. AVID is a program to familiarize you with the rigor required in High School and beyond, a program to give all students the necessary academic and social support to be successful in school now and in the future. Students will visit at least 2 college campuses and experience guest speakers from Universities and Private Industry to discuss career and education options.

7) **Beginning Spanish:** Students will learn about greetings, family members, numbers, housing, shopping, and schedules and to express temporary states, sensations and conditions. It will prepare students to become bi-literate and bicultural citizens. Students will complete this course with a basic understanding of the Spanish language that they can build upon and prepare them for Spanish 1.

8) **Spanish 1 (HS Credit):** Students will gain skills in Listening Comprehension, Speaking, Reading and Writing Spanish at the novice level. Intercultural connections and comparisons will also be explored.

9) **Journalism (Yearbook):** This course is designed for students with a love of writing, photography, and graphic design/layout. Students will focus on the production of The Mustang, Martinez Middle School's yearbook. The yearbook class is a yearlong commitment that will, at times, require extra time outside of the class. You will need some computer experience – at the very least good keyboarding skills. The class requires strong writing skills. In addition to creating the yearbook there will be academic assignments once the yearbook is completed. **Separate application is required.**

10) **Creative Writing 3:** Students will explore writing in a variety of styles from poetry, to short stories, to chapters of novels. Creative writing students get plenty of practice sharing their work with others focusing on constructive feedback and meaningful revision.

11) **Student Assistant:** The purpose of this program is to give students an opportunity to apply knowledge and skills related to occupations in a diverse range of careers and learn about careers in the workforce. Instruction is designed to develop desirable personal/professional behaviors and attitudes, which will enable the student to better relate to and communicate with superiors, co-workers, and customers. Practical application of these traits will be developed through an on-campus student assistant program. **Separate application is required. Applicant's behavior and academic success is considered.**

Incoming 8th Grade Elective Course Descriptions - 2021/2022

12) **Theater 3:** Students learn the basics of building a character through such activities as pantomime, improvisation, and effective speaking using articulation, projection, and breathing. Students also learn the importance of technical theatre and explore the use of such elements as costumes, props, and scenery. Students practice writing for the theatre and explore various theatre roles and functions. Public performances may serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. Students may be required to attend and/or participate in rehearsals and performances outside the school day to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom.

13) **Band 3:** An annual course that offers introductory, intermediate, and advanced levels. Students will learn of the broad field of music, to read music, and become reasonably proficient in the use of one or more instruments. Level of student experience will be considered for the level of placement by the instructor.

14) **Jazz Band – MUST BE CO-ENROLLED IN BAND 3:** Students will have the opportunity to learn a second instrument and will learn several musical styles including: rock, swing, funk, blues, and Latin. In addition to winds, a rhythm section is required, including drum set, electric bass, electric guitar, and piano. Students must be co-enrolled in a regular band class.

15) **Orchestra 3:** An annual course that offers introductory, intermediate, and advanced levels in the development of skills, tone production, and musical performance. Level of student experience will be considered for the level of placement by the instructor.

16) **Guitar 3:** This is a beginning level class for students to learn to play classical guitar. This class is open to any student who wishes to learn to play this instrument and develop music-reading skills. No prior experience is necessary but you must have your own guitar.

17) **Chorus 3:**
Intermediate Treble Chorus & Tenor/Bass Chorus: These ensembles are for any 7th or 8th grade student regardless of prior experience and can be repeated for credit. Students will learn how to sing with a healthy, free and relaxed tone, how to balance and blend in a choral ensemble, how to read music, and how to become independent musicians.

18) **Vocal Ensemble 3 (Music Theatre) –MUST BE CO-ENROLLED IN CHORUS 3:** This course is for 7th & 8th grade students who have successfully completed at least one full semester of middle school chorus and wish to explore the world of Musical Theatre. Students will learn basic acting skills, sing music from Broadway musicals, and participate in a Broadway show in the spring semester.

19) **Fundamentals of Culinary Careers:** Culinary is defined as anything related to food or cooking. In this first level culinary class, students will be introduced to the basics of the kitchen, including safety and sanitation, kitchen tools, recipes and terms, meal presentation, etiquette, nutrition and career skills. Students will work in a team to prepare a variety of food items and also learn about careers in the culinary industry.

20) **Nutrition & Wellness/Principles of Food (HS Credit):** Want to jump start your high school career as you learn more about healthy food choices? In this hands-on high school credit course, students will examine nutritious food principles as well as prepare related dishes in the kitchen. Topics covered will feature dietary guidelines, food labels, media effects on body image, eating disorders, nutrition needs for athletes and benefits of exercise. Students will also learn the latest culinary technology and trends related to food. The purpose of the course is to prepare students to understand the principles of food preparation, selection and storage and selection of food services. Students will learn the composition of a variety of foods (grains, vegetables and fruit, dairy, eggs, cookies, cakes, pies, candy, meats, poultry, fish) and work to create meals using the food items for use in the classroom and café. Cuisine from diverse cultures will also be introduced. Learning activities are provided in a laboratory setting using current technology.

21) **Digital Discoveries:** Students will learn to code and create websites using HTML and CSS inside Code.org's Web Lab environment. Students will also make their own apps, games and more. Collection of data and how to use this data to problem solve with computers comes in the second half of the semester. Students will be provided an opportunity to get their digital certifications in web development and programming and logic.

22) **Digital Information Technology (HS Credit):** This course provides students a working knowledge of business applications, including Word, Excel, and PowerPoint, for use in their core K-12 classes, college and all professions. They will learn the basics of Windows operating systems such as managing applications, files and folders, how to install and upgrade Client Systems and device management, security, malware protection, and remote access functions. Students who pass industry-standardized exams are awarded on high school credit and become certified as a Microsoft Technology Associate.