

# Guidance for Rising 8<sup>th</sup> Graders on Class Selection and Sign-Up

All students will be enrolled in the following classes: Math, ELA, Social Studies, Science, and EXPRESS. EXPRESS is a time to intervene & enrich students needing additional support, remediation, reteaching, or a push towards next-level learning. Teachers will create sessions that engage, enrich, stretch, reinforce, and review. Each week students are assigned sessions or may have the opportunity to choose sessions that interest them.

In addition to these 5 classes, students will also have the opportunity to take two additional classes of their choice each day. For more details, keep reading! Please note, this document lays out the options that we anticipate offering during the 2022-2023 school year. The master schedule will not be finalized until mid-summer, so the information below is subject to change.

## Class Selection

As stated above, Math, English Language Arts (ELA), Social Studies, Science, and EXPRESS are required classes for 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Students will be able to choose two additional classes. The Options are laid out in the chart below. Be sure to read through the flyers for these classes before making a selection.

Required Classes	Select One:	Select One Additional	Class:
Math	Related Arts Rotation (9-Wk Rotation)	Jazz Band	Study Focus
ELA	Band (Year-Round)	Jazz Band	Study Focus
Social Studies	Choir (Year-Round)	Jazz Band	Study Focus
Science	Orchestra (Year-Round)	Jazz Band	Study Focus
Express	Theatre (Year-Round)	Jazz Band	Study Focus

	Spanish 8B (students must have taken and passed Spanish 7A in order to take this class)	Jazz Band	Study Focus	Related Arts Rotation/Year-Long Class
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	Honors World Language (students may take this class by invitation only)	Options vary depending on which Honors World Language class is selected. Review additional information before making a decision.		
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# More About the Related Arts Rotation

## Art **Emily Shanley** [emily.shanley@wcs.edu](mailto:emily.shanley@wcs.edu)

- 8th Grade Art (9 weeks) - This is a more in-depth course in Visual Art. Students will be introduced to the Elements of Art and Principles of Design, as well as explore a variety of media, techniques, and art styles. They will make projects using drawing materials, acrylic paint, clay and more!

## Entrepreneurship EIC **Ashley Schmidt** [ashley.schmidt@wcs.edu](mailto:ashley.schmidt@wcs.edu)

- In this course students become entrepreneurs by evaluating the world around them. They will identify a problem to solve, create a product concept, sell the product in an e-commerce marketplace, and evaluate the performance of their business idea. Students will create a portfolio of artifacts and document their journey from problem to solution. This is a semester-long course.

## Physical Education/Wellness (PE)

**Mark Montgomery** [mark.montgomery@wcs.edu](mailto:mark.montgomery@wcs.edu) & **Dave Hannan** [dave.hannan@wcs.edu](mailto:dave.hannan@wcs.edu)

- Physical Education/Wellness is open to students who are wanting to continue developing their knowledge of health, wellness, and sports. Students will participate in a variety of different physical activities throughout the year. Each day, the class will begin with a 10-minute workout which might include circuits, strength training, cardio, or deep stretching. Students will also continue to build on their fundamental levels of sports. These sports might include flag football, basketball, soccer, volleyball, Thunderball, treasure island, pickleball, badminton, gaga ball, etc.

## STEM (Robotics/Pre-Engineering) **Niki Folven** [nikif@wcs.edu](mailto:nikif@wcs.edu)

- No prerequisites required. Each class will embark on fun project-based learning that builds student capacity for problem-solving, grit, and working as a team. Students will learn VEX and gain valuable exposure to various CTE opportunities that await in high school.
- STEM Designers, the name of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class, is a fundamental middle school course that trains students to define problems and methodically answer the question, "What is the solution?" Upon completion of this course, proficient students understand that engineering design is a process of developing solutions to problems and challenges in order to meet the needs of society. Students continue to apply the practices for science and engineering learned in STEM Explorers and STEM Innovators; however, STEM Designers places more emphasis on practices such as using mathematics and computational thinking; designing solutions; engaging in argument from evidence; and obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information. In addition to gaining a deep understanding of the relationship between engineering and design, students who complete this course will learn how both innovation and engineering design result in new technologies that benefit humans.

# More About Year-Long Classes

## Band **Chris Colalillo** [christopher.colalillo@wcs.edu](mailto:christopher.colalillo@wcs.edu)

- Membership is open to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who have at least two years' experience playing their instrument. The course is a continuation of the technical training started in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Students will expand their playing ability, improve their range, tone, and technique, enhance their ensemble skills, continue to assimilate music history and theory, and perform individually and as a group. 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be working on harder music and be given opportunities to play with the High school Bands/Marching Bands. Students will perform in the Winter and Spring Concerts along with other performances. Students achieving at a high level will be encouraged to audition for the TSMS Jazz Band, MTSBOA Mid-state Bands and Solo and Ensemble Festival.
- Please note there is a \$200 fee associated with this class.

## Choir **Hannah Kuchar** [hannah.kuchar@wcs.edu](mailto:hannah.kuchar@wcs.edu)

- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir is a more in-depth Choir Course. **Participation in 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir is a prerequisite for joining 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir.** This class is specifically for students who want to grow as singers and increase their comfortability in performing in front of an audience. In 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, we become like family. Every voice is valuable. You don't have to be the best singer, but if you are willing to give your all and always try your best, this will be the perfect place for you.
- Students will continue to build increased rhythmic and note reading skills as we sing in multiple parts. Students will further develop the changing and maturing voice through singing more complex music. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir Members will be given more responsibility and ownership in concert performances and in leadership opportunities. We will have at least four performances a year.
- Please note that there will be a \$50 class fee. This will cover the cost of our choir T-shirts and other in-class expenses.

## Orchestra **Melissa Dufrechou** [melissa.dufrechou@wcs.edu](mailto:melissa.dufrechou@wcs.edu)

- This class is open to all 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who are interested in playing or already play the violin, viola, cello, or (upright/string) bass. Experienced students and beginners are welcome. The class will use a peer-based mentoring model to provide advanced students with leadership training and introduce beginners to the fundamentals of performing. Students will need to rent their instruments (exceptions can be granted on an individual basis). Students are expected to practice individually in preparation for class and to attend all performances. Advanced students are encouraged to participate in auditions for solo & ensemble festival, mid-state orchestra, and all-county orchestra.
- Please note there is a \$100 fee associated with this class.

## Theatre **Katie Boothe** [katieb@wcs.edu](mailto:katieb@wcs.edu)

- This in-depth course will help students develop acting techniques, improvisation, scene writing, direction, production, sound and lighting design, puppetry, set construction, and painting skills. Students will build confidence, and leadership skills, through performance, and creative problem solving. Theatre experience is preferred but not required. Theatre students work hard and are highly committed to their artform. 8<sup>th</sup> grade theatre students work together on producing a one-act play at the end of the year.

# More About World Language

## Spanish 8B **Emily Ayers** [emily.ayers@wcs.edu](mailto:emily.ayers@wcs.edu)

This class is open to students who completed and passed Spanish 7A as 7<sup>th</sup> graders. This is part two of the two-year course in which students will earn 1 year of high school world language credit.

## Honors World Language

**French I Honors:** TBD at Summit High School

**Spanish I Honors:** TBD at Summit High School

In order to be eligible for these classes, students must meet or exceed certain requirements. Students must be self-motivated and must have superior study skills to succeed. Due to the quantity of material covered, students will move at a challenging pace. Credit for this class will appear on high school transcripts as a pass or fail and will not be calculated into the student's high school grade point average (GPA).

Students who meet requirements will receive an invitation to participate and may choose to enroll in French I Honors or Spanish I Honors as an 8<sup>th</sup> grader. If your child received an invitation to participate in this class, please review the additional flyers carefully, before enrolling.

# More About Additional Classes

The options below are available in place of Study Focus. Please keep this in mind when making class selections.

## Jazz Band **Chris Colalillo** [christopher.colalillo@wcs.edu](mailto:christopher.colalillo@wcs.edu)

Jazz band is our select ensemble at TSMS. With only a couple of exceptions, this groups is made up of students currently enrolled in Band. This ensemble is fun, fasted paced, and we get to explore the wonderful world of Jazz. We get new music weekly, work very hard, and have fun!

# Class Sign-Up

Course selection will be open **April 1<sup>st</sup>-April 14<sup>th</sup>**. Be on the lookout for an email/callout with the link to sign up.