# KINARD CORE KNOWLEDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL 



Registration Packet $8^{\text {th }}$ Grade 2024-2025
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# Kinard Core Knowledge Middle School 

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## $8^{\text {th }}$ GRADE <br> PLACEMENT INFORMATION

## MATH

Math placement is determined by Kinard staff using the following data and observations:

- Proficiency and work habits in current math course
- Math CMAS scores
- Math MAPS scores

The following courses offered at the middle school level are the equivalent of a high school course and count toward the student's GPA and high school graduation requirements.

- Algebra 1
- Geometry
- Algebra 2

Please contact your child's teacher or David Meuret, Math Department Leader, at (970) 488-5478 or dmeuret@psdschools.org if you have a specific math placement question.

## HONORS

$8^{\text {th }}$ Grade Honors courses at Kinard are:

- English/Language Arts 8 Honors
- Science 8 Honors
- Social Studies 8 Honors

Placement criteria into Honors courses include:

- Achievement test scores of proficient to advanced (most recent CMAS and/or MAPS)
- Proficient or advanced academic and work habit grades
- Completed application and required components

These courses are intended for highly motivated and academically skilled students who wish to actively participate in a challenging course of exploration. Students must meet specific criteria including the commitment to put forth the extra effort necessary for success in an academically challenging environment. Honors courses will teach the Core Knowledge Curriculum and State Academic Standards; however, the student should be willing to become a selfdirected learner and explore the content on a deeper level. Students must complete the $8^{\text {th }}$ Grade Honors Application form (page 14 of this document) to be considered for honors placement in $8^{\text {th }}$ grade. The application must be completed and returned on or before Wednesday, January 31, 2024, to the Kinard Student Services office. Any applications received after January $31^{\text {st }}$ will be added to a waiting list.

# Middle School Courses for High School Credit 

## Qualifications:

Poudre School District middle school students have the option to receive high school graduation credit for taking courses at the middle school level that meet the PSD graduation requirements.

The Kinard courses listed below have been approved to receive high school credit:

## Mathematics:

- Algebra 1
- Geometry
- Algebra 2


## World Language:

- Spanish 1A/1B*= Spanish 1
- Spanish 2
- French $1 \mathrm{~A} / \mathrm{BB}^{*}=$ French 1
- French 2
*Levels 1A and 1B must both be completed to receive high school credit.


## Eligibility Requirements:

Students meeting the requirements will receive high school credit for their course and the information will be automatically recorded on their high school transcript. The grade in the course will also be included in the calculation of the student's high school grade point average (GPA). Students are eligible to receive high school graduation credit for an approved course by meeting the following requirements:

1. Complete all four quarters of the yearlong course.

AND
2. Pass the course with an overall grade of D or higher.

## Opt-Out Option:

Students/Parents have the option of declining high school graduation credit for the approved courses listed above. If students/parents determine that they would like to decline the high school credit, they must complete the "PSD High School Credit for Middle School Courses Opt-Out Form". This form must be submitted to the high school Registrar at any point from the first day of the student's ninth grade year through the last day of the student's ninth grade year. Once the credit is declined, the grade record removal is permanent and non-reversible. Declining credit only means that the student will begin accumulating their credit once they enter ninth grade at the high school. Declining credit does not keep the student from progressing on their pathway.

For additional information regarding Graduation Requirements and PSD Policy please review the district policy at: https://www.psdschools.org/sites/default/files/PSD/policies/IKF-2017.pdf.

## ENGLISH

## LA810 English/Language Arts 8 Core Knowledge <br> Prerequisite: None

Core Knowledge topics, in combination with Colorado Academic Standards, addressed in this class include: multiple genres of paragraph and essay writing, research, speaking and listening, grammar and usage, spelling, Latin and Greek roots, poetry, short stories, elements of fiction, essays and speeches, autobiographies, literary terms, and foreign phrases. Some of the Core Knowledge texts that students may read either in entirety, or excerpts of, include: Night, The Importance of Being Earnest, Frankenstein, Animal Farm, and The Autobiography of Frederick Douglass. Students will work on and apply basic grammar, mechanics, and spelling to all genres of writing. Using the 6 -traits of writing as a base, students will learn and apply these elements of essays: organization with a central thesis, content, and mechanics. Students will be exposed to various levels of poetry. Students will focus on learning critical reading skills and learning how and when to use the best reading strategies with different kinds of written information. Students are expected to begin to synthesize, analyze, make inferences, and evaluate through novels, writing, research, and oral presentations. Outside reading and writing are requirements for this course.

## LA813 Honors English/Language Arts 8 Core Knowledge Prerequisite: None

## Year Long

Application Required: on page 14
Core Knowledge topics, alongside Colorado Academic Standards, addressed in this class include: paragraph and essay writing, research, grammar and usage, spelling, poetry, short stories, elements of fiction, essays and speeches, autobiographies, and novels. Some of the Core Knowledge texts that students may read either in entirety, or excerpts of, include: Night, The Importance of Being Earnest, Frankenstein, Animal Farm, and The Autobiography of Frederick Douglass. Students will apply basic grammar, mechanics, and spelling to all genres of writing to purposefully strengthen their writing style and voice. Using the 6 -traits of writing as a base, students will learn and apply these elements of essays: organization with a central thesis, content, mechanics, style, and voice. Students are expected to independently synthesize, analyze, make inferences, and evaluate throughout their work. Students are expected to be more self-directed with their work habits and have strong organization. Independent, outside reading and writing are requirements for this course.

# EIGHTH GRADE 2024-2025 <br> COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 

## SCIENCE

## SC828 Science 8 Core Knowledge

## Year Long

 Prerequisite: NoneThis $8^{\text {th }}$ grade class is an integrated science sequence that utilizes a variety of instructional methods and resources. Core Knowledge topics, in combination with state science standards addressed in this class include: chemistry, physics of motion, forces, work, power, and energy. The foundations of electricity, magnetism, the EM spectrum, and essentials of sound and light are also learned.

## SC829 Honors Science 8 Core Knowledge Prerequisite: None

Year Long<br>Application Required: on page 14

$8^{\text {th }}$ grade Honors Science focuses on both Core Knowledge and Colorado Academic Standards. Skills including engineering, problem solving, and data communication are integrated into the study of chemistry, physics, and energy. This honors level class moves at an accelerated pace thus allowing for a more in-depth exploration of the physical science curriculum. Concepts involve some high school level standards and include accelerated math. Class activities and assignments are designed to challenge students at higher academic levels.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

## SS830 Social Studies 8 Core Knowledge

Year Long
Prerequisite: None
In $8^{\text {th }}$ grade, Core Knowledge content will be delivered in a manner which thoroughly addresses Colorado Academic Standards in history, geography, civics, and economics. American and World History have merged in the $8^{\text {th }}$ grade Core Knowledge Sequence. $8^{\text {th }}$ grade social studies presents the 20th Century from global and American perspectives. The curriculum is designed around these main topics: WWII: European and Pacific Theatre, Origins of The Cold War thru the collapse of the Soviet Union, The Eisenhower and Kennedy Years, The Civil Rights Movement, The Vietnam War, Personal Financial Literacy: Savings, Budgeting, Credit, Identity Theft and Protection, The Decline of European Colonialism: Ireland, India, China and Africa, and the Geography of Asia. $8^{\text {th }}$ grade social studies emphasizes skills such as reading and analyzing texts and maps, applying critical thinking strategies, and economic principles including trade and managing personal credit and debt.

## SS833 Honors Social Studies 8 Core Knowledge Prerequisite: None

Year Long
Application Required: on page 14
Honors Social Studies students are expected to become active participants in their own learning. Students accepted into this class will pursue a more challenging course of inquiry and discussion to build $21^{\text {st }}$ century critical thinking skills. Students will be required to read more, write more, engage in independent research, and commit themselves to the overall effort necessary for in-depth topics in the Core Knowledge $8^{\text {th }}$ grade sequence. The curriculum is designed around these main topics: WWII: European and Pacific Theatre, Origins of The Cold War thru the collapse of the Soviet Union, The Eisenhower and Kennedy Years, The Civil Rights Movement, The Vietnam War, Personal Financial Literacy: Savings, Budgeting, Credit, Identity Theft and Protection, The Decline of European Colonialism: Ireland, India, China and Africa, and the Geography of Asia. $8^{\text {th }}$ grade social studies emphasizes skills such as reading and analyzing texts and maps, applying critical thinking strategies, and economic principles including trade and managing personal credit and debt.

# EIGHTH GRADE 2024-2025 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 

## MATHEMATICS

## MA840 Math 8

Year Long
Prerequisite: Math 7 or Math 7/8 and teacher recommendation based on data and observations
Math 8 is a pre-algebra course based on the $8^{\text {th }}$ Grade Common Core State Standards, as embedded within the Colorado Academic Standards. These standards define what students should understand and be able to do. The $8^{\text {th }}$ grade standards focus on five critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations; (2) solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (3) understanding the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (4) understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem; and (5) analyzing two-and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence. Upon successful completion, students will progress to Algebra 1.

6230 Algebra1*
Year Long
Prerequisite: Math 7/8 or Math 8 and teacher recommendation based on data and observations
The middle school Algebra 1 course is based on the high school Algebra Common Core State Standards and approximately half of the $8^{\text {th }}$ Grade Common Core State Standards, as embedded within the Colorado Academic Standards. These standards define what students should understand and be able to do and focus on: (1) writing, graphing, and solving linear, exponential, quadratic, square root, and rational equations and functions; (2) writing and solving systems of equations; (3) understanding and applying the laws of exponents; (4) solving problems involving polynomial equations by factoring; (5) understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem; and (6) constructing and analyzing data displays. Upon successful completion, students will progress to Geometry.

6240 Geometry*
Year Long
Prerequisite: Algebra 1
The middle school Geometry course is based on the high school Geometry Common Core State Standards, as embedded within the Colorado Academic Standards. These standards define what students should understand and be able to do and focus on six critical areas: (1) congruence, proof, and constructions; (2) similarity, proof, and trigonometry; (3) extending to three dimensions; (4) connecting Algebra and Geometry through coordinates; and (5) circles with and without coordinates. Upon successful completion, students will progress to Algebra 2.

6250 Algebra 2*
Year Long
Prerequisite: Algebra 1, Geometry (may be concurrent), and teacher recommendation based on data and observations

The middle school Algebra 2 course is based on the high school Common Core State Standards, as embedded within the Colorado Academic Standards. These standards define what students should understand and be able to do and focus on four critical areas: (1) polynomial, rational, and radical relationships; (2) transformations of functions; (3) modeling with functions; and (4) inferences and conclusions from data. Upon successful completion, students will progress to Pre-Calculus, College Algebra or AP Statistics.

Students enrolled in Algebra 2 may be concurrently enrolled in Geometry. Students enrolled in both courses will complete two math courses during their 8th grade year. If students are co-enrolled in Geometry and Algebra 2, they will have two fewer elective options.

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# EIGHTH GRADE 2024-2025 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 

## WORLD LANGUAGE

4709 French 1B*
Year Long
Prerequisite: French 1A
Grades: $7^{\text {th }} \boldsymbol{\&} \mathbf{8}^{\text {th }}$
In French 1B, the continuation of French 1A, students continue the study of the French language and culture. Upon successful completion of this course, students will receive high school credit for level 1 French. With an emphasis on communication in the target language, activities for this course include dialogues, storytelling, novice readings, listening selections, and written communication. The study of a world language prepares students to compete in a global community!

4750 French 2*
Year Long
Prerequisites: French 1A \& 1B
Grades: $8^{\text {th }}$
This course is equivalent to the high school level 2 class, and students will receive high school credit upon successful completion of this yearlong course. Students continue to experience language through the study of culture, with an emphasis on communication in the target language. Students expand their knowledge of vocabulary and structures. Activities include dialogues, storytelling, novice readings, listening selections, and written communication. The study of a world language prepares students to compete in a global community!

## 4729 Spanish 1B*

Year Long
Prerequisite: Spanish 1A
Grades: $7^{\text {th }} \boldsymbol{\&} \mathbf{8}^{\text {th }}$
In Spanish 1B, the continuation of Spanish 1A, students continue the study of the Spanish language and culture. Upon successful completion of this course, students will receive high school credit for level 1 Spanish. With an emphasis on communication in the target language, activities for this course include dialogues, storytelling, novice readings, listening selections, and written communication. The study of a world language prepares students to compete in a global community!

## 4770 Spanish 2*

Year Long
Prerequisites: Spanish 1A \& 1B
Grades: $\mathbf{8}^{\text {th }}$

This course is equivalent to the high school level 2 class, and students will receive high school credit upon successful completion of this yearlong course. Students continue to experience language through the study of culture, with an emphasis on communication in the target language. Students expand their knowledge of vocabulary and structures. Activities include dialogues, storytelling, novice readings, listening selections, and written communication. The study of a world language prepares students to compete in a global community!

Please contact Leslie Husted, World Language Department Leader, at lhusted@psdschools.org if you have specific World Language placement questions.
*Students in these courses will receive high school credit unless they don't meet the requirements or opt-out. See page 4 for additional information.

# EIGHTH GRADE 2024-2025 <br> COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 

## MUSIC

## 2534 Select Mixed Choir (Mustang Chorale) <br> Prerequisite: Beginning Choir or Intermediate Choir + Audition

Year Long

Select Mixed Choir (Mustang Chorale) is an advanced performance ensemble. The $7^{\text {th }}$ and $8^{\text {th }}$ grade Core Knowledge Music requirements of both elements of music and music appreciation will be taught through choral performance. Singers participate in performances throughout the school year, including concerts, the Madrigal Dinner, and singing the National Anthem at sporting events in Colorado. Students new to Kinard with previous choir experience should contact Mr. Wheeler at swheeler@psdchools.org to set up an audition if they want to join the Mustang Chorale.

## 2554 Select Treble Choir (Cor Angélique) <br> Prerequisite: Intermediate Choir or Select Mixed Choir + Audition

Year Long

Select Treble Choir (Cor Angélique) is an advanced performance ensemble. The $7^{\text {th }} \& 8^{\text {th }}$ grade Core Knowledge Music requirements of both elements of music and music appreciation will be taught through choral performance. Singers perform in concerts throughout the school year. In addition, Cor Angélique serves as choral ambassadors for Kinard performing in concerts, events, festivals, and performances at the local, state, and national levels.

## 2610 Symphonic Band <br> Prerequisite: Instructor Approval/Audition

Year Long

Symphonic Band is the advanced performance ensemble. Students electing to perform in Symphonic Band also commit to multiple performance opportunities outside of class time, as well as sectional rehearsals to be scheduled before school, after school, or during lunches. The $8^{\text {th }}$ grade Core Knowledge requirements of both elements of music and music history will be taught through performance in Symphonic Band. Students new to Kinard should contact Mr. Perez at mperez@psdschools.org to set up an audition.

## 2620 Symphony Orchestra <br> Year Long

Prerequisite: Instructor Approval/Audition
Symphony Orchestra is our most advanced performance ensemble. Students electing to perform in Symphony Orchestra also commit to multiple performance opportunities outside of class time, as well as sectional rehearsals. The $8^{\text {th }}$ grade Core Knowledge requirements of both elements of music and music history will be taught through performance in Symphony Orchestra. Students new to Kinard should contact Mrs. Griffey at lgriffey@psdchools.org to set up an audition.

HEALTH \& PHYSICAL EDUCATION

## 3589 8 $^{\text {th }}$ Grade Comprehensive Health $\boldsymbol{\&}$ Physical Education

Semester Prerequisite: None
Students will deepen their knowledge and understanding of the Colorado State Health and Physical Education standards which include: (1) movement competency and understanding, (2) physical and personal wellness, (3) social and emotional wellness and (4) prevention and risk management. Physical Education will focus on fitness planning for lifelong movement, as well as offensive and defensive strategies in a variety of games. Comprehensive Health will concentrate on ensuring the health and safety of self and others by learning more in depth about addictions, alcohol, tobacco and drugs, as well as studying about mental disorders, suicide, self-injury, disordered eating, and healthy eating habits.

## 3598 Advance $\mathbf{8}^{\text {th }}$ Grade Comprehensive Health \& Physical Education <br> Semester <br> Prerequisite: None

Students will deepen their knowledge and understanding of the Colorado State Health and Physical Education standards which include: (1) movement competency and understanding, (2) physical and personal wellness, (3) social and emotional wellness and (4) prevention and risk management. Students will focus on athletic performance (weight training implementation, speed and agility, plyometrics) and advanced sport play/strategies. This class is designed to be a more rigorous and challenging physical education experience. Health topics would mirror the $8^{\text {th }}$ Grade PE/Health curriculum.

## TECHNOLOGY

## 2000 8 $^{\text {th }}$ Grade Technology (Design \& Technology Explorations)

Semester
Prerequisite: None
Technology is an important part of our modern world. Design \& Technology Explorations introduces $8^{\text {th }}$ grade students to the exciting technological skills and advancements with a $21^{\text {st }}$ century approach. Students study and experiment with historical and future space flight systems, 3D design and printing, basic electricity and electronics, wood shop safety and production, structural engineering, and digital presentations. We discover and explore other new and innovative technologies as the field changes and evolves.

## EIGHTH GRADE 2024-2025 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## SEMESTER ELECTIVES

These are potential elective classes for 2024-25. Classes will only run if a sufficient number of students selects the course.

## 1390 2D Drawing \& Painting (Visual Arts 8 Core Knowledge)

Semester Elective
Calling all doodlers! This 2D Visual Arts course is a semester long elective class in the $8^{\text {th }}$ grade. This course will focus on foundational drawing skills and techniques as a baseline for all 2 -dimensional art. Multiple mediums within drawing, painting, printmaking, and illustration will be explored, while exercising artistic choice and freedom. Students will relate the visual arts to cultural and historical events through the Core Knowledge Sequence. This course encourages personal meaning, creativity, and expression through every piece of art.

## 1045 3D Pottery \& Sculpture

Semester Elective
Do you love clay and building things with your hands? This 3-dimensional 8th grade art course will guide students to see the world in 3D while learning new techniques in clay, jewelry, papier mâché, wire, and mixed media. Students will relate the visual arts to cultural and historical events through the Core Knowledge Sequence. This course encourages personal meaning, creativity, and expression through every piece of art.

## 0931 Entrepreneurship

Semester Elective
In this course, students will use digital and physical technology to create a student-run business, sell a product, and donate profits while considering environmental and social impacts. Students will gain technical skills in structural engineering and design, woodshop tools and safety, web design, resume formatting and layout, video production, graphic design, spreadsheets, design process, data analysis, and online collaborative applications. Students will develop a business plan, establish public relations with our community, create marketing and manufacturing departments, and execute a production/manufacturing model while determining success criteria.

## 4020 Family \& Consumer Sciences Explorations

Semester Elective
FCS is an elective offered to $8^{\text {th }}$ graders. This class begins with an introduction to basic hand sewing stitches which are then used to complete a small felt project designed by the student. Students will then learn how to operate and care for sewing machines and will complete a machine sewing project as their summative for the unit. The class will then shift its focus to the kitchens for cooking instruction coupled with hands-on cooking labs. Students will learn how to read a recipe, food safety, cooking techniques, and will have a chance to cook a variety of different dishes. The cooking units include quick breads, yeast breads, and knife skills.

## 1759 Game Design

Semester Elective
This course is an introduction to computer game design and programming. Students will use game programming software to design and program games at the beginner to intermediate level. Social networks of game designers and online group-focused collaborative environments will be explored.

## 1989MS International Foods

Semester Elective
This class will study culture, geography, and agricultural influences of food. We will study various countries and plan and prepare foods for the classroom from these cultures. The study of influences of our food choices will include: family and culture, religious beliefs, festivals and celebrations, and traditions.

## 5275MS Mustang Media (Multimedia Production Explorations)

## Semester Elective

This course involves students in the history, study, and creation of audio, written, and visual productions. The operation of technical equipment and other support activities provide training for students to produce spot announcements, commercials, animations, news, blogs, graphics, social media spots, podcasts, and films. Emphasis is on safe and creative productions for the real world.

## EIGHTH GRADE 2024-2025 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## LEADERSHIP AND TRAVEL-BASED ELECTIVES

# Application-based electives: Selection process will be explained by counselors/teachers or visit tinyurl.com/kinardstudentleadership for more information. 

6769CK Kinard C.A.R.E.S. Y. (Year-long option)

Year Long
Application Required
Kinard C.A.R.E.S. is a year-long elective class for students who share the common vision of raising environmental awareness while making a collaborative difference in our local community. The curriculum focuses on environmental leadership, service-learning, and sustainable living practices. The pinnacle experience of this course includes a trip to Catalina Island, CA, to participate in an environmental leadership camp. This adventure trip helps students to recognize the interconnectedness of natural and human-built systems. Once students grasp the connections between a stable economy, a healthy environment, equitable social systems, and their role as global citizens, they are successfully launched into an already more sustainable world - a world they are empowered to protect and enjoy. Please note that a significant fee is associated with the travel aspect of this course. See application for further details.

## 7028CK Global Leadership

## Year Long <br> Application Required

GL is a year-long elective class centered on building leaders locally and globally. The focus of this elective is to learn service leadership in our school, community, and world. Traditionally, this course includes a 7-10 day trip to Central America. Students will engage in service learning, gather cultural experiences that foster an authentic worldview, and develop an understanding of leadership in the $21^{\text {st }}$ century. The four-quarter curriculum includes service, leadership development, team building, art, science, culture, developing connectedness, mindfulness, and communication skills. Please note that a significant fee is associated with the travel aspect of this course. Travel is an integral part of the class, but is not required for acceptance. See application for further details.

## 6769CK Kinard C.A.R.E.S. S. (Semester-long option)

## Semester Elective Application Required

Kinard C.A.R.E.S. also offers a semester-long elective class for students who share the common vision of raising environmental awareness while making a collaborative difference in our local community. This class option only takes up one elective spot and is a condensed version of the year-long C.A.R.E.S. Y option. The curriculum for both classes focuses on environmental leadership, service-learning, and sustainable living practices. The pinnacle experience of this course includes a trip to Catalina Island, CA, to participate in an environmental leadership camp. This adventure trip helps students to recognize the interconnectedness of natural and human-built systems. Once students grasp the connections between a stable economy, a healthy environment, equitable social systems, and their role as global citizens, they are successfully launched into an already more sustainable world - a world they are empowered to protect and enjoy. Please note that a significant fee is associated with the travel aspect of this course. See application for further details.
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## $8^{\text {th }}$ GRADE HONORS APPLICATION

Complete this page and turn it in with your course request form (pg. 15) to Student Services by January 31, 2024 if you're interested in taking any honors classes next school year.

To be placed into an honors class, you must meet the following criteria and complete the required components below. English, Science, and Social Studies teachers will review all student data to determine the best placement for each student.

1. Student must have Advanced or Proficient CMAS/MAPS scores in language arts, math, and/or science.
2. Student must have Advanced or Proficient class grades in all content standards and work habits for the content area (English, Science, and/or Social Studies) for which they are interested in taking an honors course next year.
3. Student must complete the required Learning Reflection. This is a task that will be completed in a $7^{\text {th }}$ grade core class and provides an opportunity for students to explain why they feel an honors class is a good fit for them next year.
4. Student must indicate which honors courses they would like to be placed in for $8^{\text {th }}$ grade. Please note: Teachers will make final placement decisions, based on the completed components and the required criteria for placement.

## Student Statement of Interest:

Please select only the honors courses that you are interested in for $8^{\text {th }}$ grade.
$\square$ Honors English 8
$\square$ Honors Science 8
$\square$ Honors Social Studies 8

## Student and Parent Signatures:

STUDENT: If I am accepted into an honors class, I agree to complete all my assignments on time and at a level of high quality, to actively participate in class discussions, and to show initiative in all aspects of this class.

## (Student signature)

PARENT: If my child is accepted into an honors class, I agree to show my support of their learning and their study skills.
$\qquad$

Kinard Core Knowledge Middle School
$8^{\text {th }}$ Grade Course Request Form
2024-2025
www.kin.psdschools.org
Student Name: $\qquad$ ID \#: $\qquad$ ELO Teacher: $\qquad$
CHECK to the left of each class you are choosing for your $\mathbf{8}^{\text {th }}$ grade year.

* Indicates an application is needed for admission to that class by acceptance criteria.


Application due on or before Wednesday, January 31, 2024.


[^0]:    * Students in these courses will receive high school credit unless they don't meet the requirements or opt-out.

