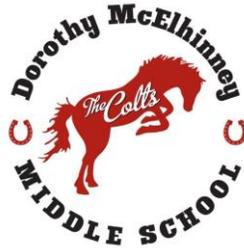


# Dorothy McElhinney Middle School

## 2025-2026 Course Catalog



Tom Patane  
Principal

Heather Just  
Assistant Principal

Jared Rogers  
Assistant Principal

Veronica Rubalcava  
Counselor A-B/AVID

Jovi Zanartu  
Counselor C-H

Edgar Trejo  
Counselor I-O/EL

Rachel Sliffe  
Counselor P-Z

### **DOROTHY MCELHINNEY MIDDLE SCHOOL VISION STATEMENT:**

Our goal at Dorothy McElhinney Middle School is to prepare compassionate, open-minded, and trustworthy leaders by giving students of different abilities and backgrounds access to an excellent education and creative opportunities through the visual and performing arts.

## **Dorothy McElhinney Middle School**



35125 Briggs Rd., Murrieta, CA 92563

Phone: 951.304.1885

Fax: 951.304.1889

Office Hours: Monday - Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

# LANGUAGE ARTS

## Intensive LA/SS

Course # 23010

**Grade Level(s):** 6<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** 1 Year

**Prerequisite(s):** STAR and SBAC scores in the below basic range, teacher recommendation

This course will focus on the use of Scholastic programs including Read 180 Next Generation and System 44 Next Generation materials and software as a replacement curriculum, to improve reading comprehension. Students will be exposed to and read from a variety of sources including nonfiction, literature, as well as poetry.

## Language Arts 6

Course # 23600

**Grade Level(s):** 6<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** 1 Year

**Prerequisite(s):** N/A

This course will focus on nonfiction and literary texts, critical reading, essays, the writing process, and an introduction on how to provide supporting evidence through analysis of different genres. With the focus on the three modes of written discourse, students will read a variety of works modeling the styles of writing. Literature and nonfiction texts will be studied within the context of a writing-based curriculum that will help students think and write critically. Students will construct a variety of academic essays with careful consideration of audience, purpose, tone and appropriate rhetorical mode. Grammar and paragraphing will be addressed as well as strategies to develop academic vocabulary. Students will take part in collaborative conversations in class and through the use of technology to develop academic language and to effectively access rigorous curriculum. Assessments will include performance tasks, conventional assessments, multimedia presentations, portfolios and published products.

## Language Arts 7

Course # 23700

**Grade Level(s):** 7<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** 1 Year

**Prerequisite(s):** N/A

This course will focus on nonfiction and literature texts, critical reading, essays, the writing process, and an introduction to academic research fundamentals while using MLA format. With the focus on the three modes of written discourse, students will read a variety of works modeling the styles of writing. Literature and nonfiction texts will be studied within the context of a writing-based curriculum that will help students think and write critically. Students will construct a variety of academic essays with careful consideration of audience, purpose, tone and appropriate rhetorical mode. Grammar and paragraphing will be addressed as well as strategies to develop academic vocabulary. Students will take part in collaborative conversations in class and through the use of technology to develop academic language and to effectively access rigorous curriculum. Assessments will include performance tasks, conventional assessments, multimedia presentations, portfolios and published products.

## Advanced Language Arts 7

Course # 23701

**Grade Level(s):** 7<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** 1 Year

**Prerequisite(s):** A/B in 6th grade language arts, advanced test scores and teacher recommendation.

This course will focus on nonfiction and literature, critical reading, essays, the writing process, and an introduction to academic research fundamentals. Students will construct a variety of academic essays with careful consideration of audience, purpose, tone and appropriate rhetorical mode. Literature and nonfiction texts will be studied within the context of a writing based curriculum that will help students think and write critically. With the focus on the three modes of written discourse, students will read a variety of works modeling the style of writing. Grammar and paragraphing will be addressed as well as strategies to develop academic vocabulary. Students will take part in collaborative conversations in class and through the use of technology to effectively access rigorous curriculum. Assessment will include performance tasks, conventional assessments, multimedia presentations, portfolios and published products. In the advanced course, students will focus on independent, in-depth reading of challenging texts with greater emphasis on higher level thinking skills. Advanced students will read and write extensively.

### **Language Arts 8**

Course # 23800

**Grade Level(s):** 8<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** 1 Year

**Prerequisite(s):** N/A

This standards-based course will focus on nonfiction and literature (including stories, dramas, and poems), critical reading, essay and narrative styles, and a continuation of academic research fundamentals. Students will routinely read, write, evaluate, and revise academic essays for a wide range of academic tasks, purposes, and audiences. Literature and nonfiction texts will be studied within the context of a literacy-based curriculum that will foster critical thinking in both reading and writing. With the focus on the three modes of written discourse (argumentative, informative/explanatory, and narrative), students will read a variety of works modeling the styles of writing. Grammar, conventions, and paragraphing will be addressed, as well as strategies to build and skillfully implement academic vocabulary.

Students will routinely participate in meaningful, relevant, collaborative conversations in class and through blended learning approaches to effectively reflect upon and analyze a more rigorous curriculum. Assessment will include a variety of performance tasks, traditional and authentic assessments, multimedia presentations, portfolios, and published products. Students will be challenged to implement diffusing and emerging technologies to produce and publish writing, as well as for the development 21st Century skills for college and career readiness.

### **Advanced Language Arts 8**

Course # 23801

**Grade Level(s):** 8<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** 1 Year

**Prerequisite(s):** A/B in 7th grade language arts, advanced test scores and teacher recommendation.

The 8th grade Advanced English Language Arts course will provide students with a challenging curriculum that teaches to the same standards as the English Language Arts 8 course. At the advanced level, extended learning activities will require students to increase their use of critical thinking skills to include higher levels of analysis, synthesis, and problem solving. The curriculum moves at an accelerated pace with a more concentrated focus.

In the advanced course, students will focus on independent, in-depth reading of challenging texts with greater emphasis on higher level thinking skills. Advanced students are expected to read and write extensively, engage in higher levels of discourse, and participate in frequent project-based learning opportunities.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

### **Social Studies 6**

Course # 24600

**Grade Level(s):** 6<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** 1 Year

**Prerequisite:** N/A

World history students will examine the ancient world from Pre-history through the Middle Ages using five key strands of social studies. While examining the history of the ancient world, students will analyze the connections among geography, government, culture, and economics. Students will also develop critical process skills for assessing issues, problem solving, decision-making and taking civic action.

### **Social Studies 7**

Course # 24700

**Grade Level(s):** 7<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** 1 Year

**Prerequisite:** N/A

Students will begin with the fall of the Western Roman Empire and conclude with the Enlightenment and the Age of Reason. This course roughly covers a 2,000 year period of time introducing cultures from five of the Seven Continents. In each society studied there will be six primary areas of emphasis: geography, culture, economics, government, religious beliefs, and technology.

### **Social Studies 8**

Course # 24800

**Grade Level(s):** 8<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** 1 Year

**Prerequisite:** N/A

In United States History 8, students will study U.S. history from the founding of English colonies in America to the United States' entrance into World War I. Students will learn to think and write like historians, utilizing skills such as sourcing, contextualizing, close reading, and corroboration. Students will examine the social, cultural, political and technological changes during this time in American history in an attempt to foster multicultural awareness and the recognition and application of the democratic values at the core of American society.

# MATHEMATICS

## Math 6

Course # 21600

**Grade Level(s):** 6<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Year

**Prerequisite(s):** N/A

This course meets the 6th grade California State Standards for Mathematics. Math 6 will emphasize the five domains including Ratios, Proportional Relationships, the Number System, Expressions, Equations, Geometry, Statistics and Probability. The first semester emphasizes the skills of working with numerical expressions and factors, algebraic expressions, properties, rates, ratios, and geometry. In addition, students will continue to build on prior knowledge of concepts such as fractions and decimals. The second semester focuses on integers, equations, inequalities, geometry, statistics and probability. Students will routinely use the standards for mathematical practice to make sense of problems, justify solutions and conclusions, model with mathematics, and strategically use technology to analyze and solve real world problems. STEM activities will be integrated throughout the course.

## Accelerated Math 6

Course # 21602

**Grade Level(s):** 6<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Year

**Prerequisite(s):** A/B in Math 5, advanced test scores, and teacher recommendation.

This course meets the 6th grade California Standards for Mathematics. Students will deepen and extend their understanding of the five domains including Ratios, Proportional Relationships, the Number System, Expressions, Equations, Geometry, Statistics and Probability. The first semester emphasizes the skills of working with numerical expressions and factors, algebraic expressions, properties, rates, ratios, and geometry. In addition, students will continue to build on prior knowledge of concepts such as fractions and decimals. The second semester focuses on integers, equations, inequalities, geometry, statistics and probability. Students will routinely use the standards for mathematical practice to make sense of problems, justify solutions and conclusions, model with mathematics, and strategically use technology to analyze and solve real world problems. Interdisciplinary and STEM activities will be integrated throughout the course.

## Math 7

Course # 21705

**Grade Level(s):** 7<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Year

**Prerequisite(s):** N/A

This course meets the 7th grade California State Standards for Mathematics. Math 7 will emphasize the five domains including Ratios, Proportional Relationships, the Number System, Expressions, Equations, Geometry, Statistics and Probability. The first semester emphasizes the skills of rational number operations, equivalent expressions, solving problems using linear

equations and inequalities. The second semester focuses on analyzing proportional relationships, geometric relationships, solving problems using angles, surface area, volume, and finding probability of events. Other topics will include drawing, constructing and describing geometrical figures and describing the relationships between them. Students will routinely use the standards for mathematical practice to make sense of problems, justify solutions and conclusions, model with mathematics, and strategically use technology to analyze and solve real world problems. STEM activities will be integrated throughout the course.

### **Accelerated Math 7**

Course # 21602

**Grade Level(s):** 7<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Year

**Prerequisite(s):** An A/B in Accelerated Math 6 advanced test scores and teacher recommendation.

This accelerated course completes the second half of 7<sup>th</sup> and all of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade California State Standards for Mathematics in one school year. Students will be prepared to take Advanced Math I (high school course) in 8<sup>th</sup> grade which allows them to take Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), Dual Enrollment (DE) during their junior and senior years. This course completes all content from Advanced Math 7 and Advanced Math 8. Students will routinely use the standards for mathematical practice to make sense of problems, justify solutions and conclusions, model with mathematics, and strategically use technology to analyze and solve real-world problems. Interdisciplinary and STEM activities will be integrated throughout the course.

### **Math 7/8**

Course # 21807

**Grade Level(s):** 7<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Year (2 periods)

**Prerequisite(s):** A in Advanced Math 6, advanced test scores and teacher recommendation.

This accelerated course meets the 7th and 8th grade California State Standards for Mathematics in one school year. The amount of material to be covered requires that students to be enrolled in two class periods. Students will be prepared to take Advanced Math I (high school math course) in 8th grade which allows them to take Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), Dual Enrollment (DE) during their junior and senior year. This course completes all content from Advanced Math 7 and Advanced Math 8. Students will routinely use the standards for mathematical practice to make sense of problems, justify solutions and conclusions, model with mathematics, and strategically use technology to analyze and solve real world problems. Interdisciplinary and STEM activities will be integrated throughout the course.

### **Math 8**

Course # 21805

**Grade Level(s):** 8<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Year

**Prerequisite(s):** N/A

This course meets the 8th grade California State Standards for Mathematics. Math 8 will emphasize the five domains including the Number System, Expressions, Equations, Functions, Geometry, Statistics and Probability. The first semester emphasizes the skills of real number operations, radicals and integer exponents, the connection between proportional relationships and linear equations, and solving systems of linear equations. The second semester focuses on defining and evaluating functions, modeling relationships, geometric congruence and similarity, Pythagorean Theorem, volume and statistics and probability. Students will routinely use the standards for mathematical practice to make sense of problems, justify solutions and conclusions, model with mathematics, and strategically use technology to analyze and solve real world problems. STEM activities will be integrated throughout the course.

### **Advanced Math I**

Course # 2212

**Grade Level(s):** 8-12

**Length of Course:** Year

**Prerequisite(s):** Completion Accelerated Math 7/8 with a C or better, advanced test scores, teacher recommendation.

This course meets UC/CSU (C) and district requirements for math credit. The critical areas of this course are: Relations and Functions, Linear Equations and Inequalities, Systems of Equations and Inequalities, Polynomial Expressions, Exponential Functions, Geometric Properties and Congruence, and Probability and Statistics. In addition, students will deepen and extend understanding of linear and exponential relationships by contrasting them with each other and by applying linear models to data. Students routinely use the standards for mathematical practice to make sense of problems, justify solutions and conclusions, model with mathematics, and strategically use technology to analyze and solve real-world problems.

# SCIENCE

## Science 6

Course # 22600

**Grade Level(s):** 6<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Year

**Prerequisite(s):** N/A

This course covers grade 6 California science standards on plate tectonics and Earth's structure, shaping Earth's surface, heat and thermal energy, Energy in the Earth system, Ecology, Earth's resources, and investigation and experimentation. Students will complete investigative projects and activities designed to reinforce the principles of the scientific method. Students will be required to maintain an Earth Science Notebook which will contain notes, class assignments, lab work, homework assignments, and personal reflections. Multiple projects will be required throughout the school year.

## Science 7

Course # 22700

**Grade Level(s):** 7<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Year

**Prerequisite(s):** N/A

This course covers grade 7 California science standards on cell biology, genetics, evolution, Earth and life history, structure and function in living systems. Students will complete investigative projects and activities designed to reinforce the principles of the scientific method. Students will be required to maintain a Life Science Folder which will contain notes, class assignments, lab work, and homework assignments. Multiple projects will be required throughout the school year.

## Science 8

Course # 22800

**Grade Level(s):** 8<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Year

**Prerequisite(s):** N/A

This course covers grade 8 California science standards on motion, forces, structure of matter, Earth in the solar system, reactions, chemistry of living things, periodic table, density, buoyancy, investigation and experimentation. Students will complete investigative projects and activities designed to reinforce the principles of the scientific method. Students will be required to maintain a Physical Science Notebook which will contain notes, class assignments, lab work, homework assignments, and personal reflections. Multiple projects will be required throughout the school year.

# **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

## **Physical Education 6**

Course # 25600

**Grade Level(s):** 6<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Year

**Prerequisite(s):** N/A

This course meets California requirements for Physical Education. This course will emphasize the development of movement skills and movement knowledge, self-image, personal growth, and social evolution. Students will be introduced to and participate in a variety of individual, dual, and cooperative activities. Daily participation in exercises that improve flexibility, muscle strength, and cardiovascular endurance will emphasize the benefits of lifetime health and fitness. In addition, concepts in total personal fitness and wellness will be covered. State mandated physical fitness test will be administered throughout the year.

## **Physical Education 7**

Course # 25700

**Grade Level(s):** 7<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Year

**Prerequisite(s):** N/A

This course meets California requirements for Physical Education. This course will emphasize the development of movement skills and movement knowledge, self-image, personal growth, and social evolution. Students will be introduced to and participate in a variety of individual, dual, cooperative activities and team games. Daily participation in exercises that improve flexibility, muscle strength, and cardiovascular endurance will emphasize the benefits of lifetime health and fitness. In addition, concepts in total personal fitness and wellness will be covered. State mandated physical fitness test will be administered throughout the year.

## **Physical Education 8**

Course # 25800

**Grade Level(s):** 8<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Year

**Prerequisite(s):** N/A

This course meets California requirements for Physical Education. This course will emphasize the development of movement skills and movement knowledge, self-image, personal growth, and social evolution. Students will be introduced to and participate in a variety of individual, dual, cooperative activities and team sports. Daily participation in exercises that improve flexibility, muscle strength, and cardiovascular endurance will emphasize the benefits of lifetime health and fitness. In addition, concepts in total personal fitness and wellness will be covered. State mandated physical fitness test will be administered throughout the year.

## **Unified PE 6-8**

Course # 25805

**Grade Level(s):** 6-8<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Year

**Prerequisite(s):** Application

This course is a fully inclusive program that combines students with disabilities and students without in a 50/50 ratio. Unified Physical Education combines all students to participate in developmentally appropriate activities including lifetime activities, physical fitness, and sports. Students will work together to increase competence and confidence in a variety of physical activities. Through ongoing leadership opportunities, members of this course will be empowered to help create a more inclusive and accepting school environment for all students. All students should be encouraged to use their unique skills to support each other.

## **Zero Period Course Options**

Zero Period meets Monday-Friday from 7:55-8:45 am

### **General Physical Education**

Course # 25810

**Grade Level(s):** 6-8

**Length of Course:** Year

**Prerequisite(s):** N/A

Taking this course will allow students the opportunity to have an additional elective or intervention class during the regular school day. This course meets California requirements for Physical Education. This course will emphasize the development of movement skills and movement knowledge, self-image, personal growth, and social evolution. Students will be introduced to and participate in a variety of individual, dual, cooperative activities and team sports. Daily participation in exercises that improve flexibility, muscle strength, and cardiovascular endurance will emphasize the benefits of lifetime health and fitness. In addition, concepts in total personal fitness and wellness will be covered. State mandated physical fitness test will be administered throughout the year.

### **AVID 7**

Course # 26507

**Grade Level:** 7<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Year

**Prerequisite:** Application and Interview required.

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is an exceptional program that begins in middle school and is designed to help students accomplish their dream of successfully attending a four-year college or university. AVID provides students with the skills they need to be successful in middle school and high school and the tools, guidance and courses necessary for college acceptance.

The AVID program gives day-to-day mentoring help, creates a vision of college as attainable, and provides guidance in how to negotiate the college preparatory system. AVID places students with a strong group of peers and adults who share a commitment to academic achievement. Ultimately, AVID provides structure and a sense of family to support students as they take on the academic challenges necessary to achieve their goal of acceptance to a four-year college or university.

### **AVID 8**

Course # 26508

**Grade Level(s):** 8<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Year

**Prerequisite:** Application and Interview required.

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is an exceptional program that begins in middle school and is designed to help students accomplish their dream of successfully attending a four-year college or university. AVID provides students with the skills they need to be

successful in middle school and high school and the tools, guidance and courses necessary for college acceptance.

The AVID program gives day-to-day mentoring help, creates a vision of college as attainable, and provides guidance in how to negotiate the college preparatory system. AVID places students with a strong group of peers and adults who share a commitment to academic achievement. Ultimately, AVID provides structure and a sense of family to support students as they take on the academic challenges necessary to achieve their goal of acceptance to a four-year college or university. *Please see Mrs. McLellan in room F206 for more information.*

## **Electives**

### **Robotics 1**

Course # 26196

**Grade Level(s):** 6-8

**Length of Course:** Semester

**Prerequisite(s):** None

In this course, students will begin by learning the foundation of engineering principles, gear ratios, simple machines, and mechanical advantage. They construct and learn to program/code robots for a variety of tasks. This class is self-paced and offers students hands-on learning experiences. Completion of Robotics 1 is a requirement if students wish to take Robotics 2.

### **Computers Science I**

Course # 26143

**Grade Level(s):** 6<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Semester

**Prerequisite:** N/A

In this course, students will learn the basics of programming, use of algorithms, and debugging. As students' progress, they will build understanding in more complex programming skills such as loops, variables, conditionals, as well as begin to understand the various hardware components of computing devices. This class is self-paced and allows for students to begin at their own level and progress at their own pace. As students master the basics of programming, they will have the opportunity to design and build websites. In addition to learning programming and web design, students will experience Microsoft Excel and Microsoft PowerPoint in a variety of projects. This course is a requirement for students wishing to explore Computer Science 2.

### **Computers Science 2**

Course # 26158

**Grade Level(s):** 6<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Year-long

**Prerequisite:** Computer Science 1

In this course, students will take their foundation in coding and web design to the next level of programming. Students will begin with learning how to create apps and games using online software. Students will understand social impacts of technology and use skills acquired to develop applications for mobile devices. In addition to learning computing systems and app design, students will learn to apply more advanced features of Microsoft 365. This course is a requirement for students wishing to explore Computer Science 3.

## **Multimedia**

Course # 26144

**Grade Level(s):** 6<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Semester

**Prerequisite:** N/A

This course is the introductory class in our video production program that trains students to produce news segments through the three stages of video production. Students will have the opportunity to explore broadcasting and video production in a hands-on setting. Students will have the opportunity to work in the Mac News Studio to produce a variety of programming for the middle school audience such as commercials, news stories, student interviews, and more. Students will learn how to use video cameras, microphones, tripods, lights and other equipment to create their segments. Topics covered include the basic aspects of the pre-production, production, and post-production process including storyboarding, camera techniques, editing, copyright and careers in the media fields.

## **Art I**

Course # 26135

**Grade Level(s):** 6<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Semester

**Prerequisite:** N/A

Students will learn about and explore the Elements of Art (line, shape, form, color, value and texture) and the Principles of Design (balance, movement, rhythm, emphasis, pattern and unity) using a variety of mediums. Students will explore visual art through experiences in drawing, painting, printmaking, collage and hand building ceramic techniques. Students will focus on improved craftsmanship and final product while learning about art history, criticism, and aesthetics. Note: Students have the option of taking Art I for a second time and can expect a similar, but more challenging experience.

## **Art II**

Course # 26136

**Grade Level(s):** 7<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Semester

**Prerequisite:** Art I

Students will learn about and explore the Elements of Art (line, shape, form, color, value and texture) and the Principles of Design (balance, movement, rhythm, emphasis, pattern and unity) using a variety of mediums. Students will explore visual art through experiences in drawing, painting, printmaking, collage and hand building ceramic techniques. Students will focus on improved craftsmanship and final product while learning about art history, criticism, and aesthetics. Note: Students have the option of taking Art II for a second time and can expect a similar, but more challenging experience.

## **Career Explore**

Course # 26250

**Grade Level(s):** 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Semester

**Prerequisite:** None

In this semester long course, students will rotate among multiple modules such as Nursing, Engineering, Design, Audio Production, Criminalistics, Mental Health, Home Maintenance Fundamentals, Environment & Ecology, and Energy & Power participating in activities that are typical to careers in the corresponding industries. Students will also be introduced to career skills, nutrition and wellness as they build their capacity in academics, civic mindedness, workplace readiness, and life readiness.

### **Chorale**

Course # 26101

**Grade Level(s):** 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Semester

**Prerequisite:** None

Chorale is open to any student interested in exploring music with their own voice. Students will build their skills in reading music, learn essential team-building traits, build singing skills, and learn how to perform with confidence. Students are expected to attend two performances and should expect to gain lots of confidence and social skills in the process. Please see Ms. Taylor in room B108 for more information.

### **Dance Beginning**

Course # 26115

**Grade Level:** 6-8<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Semester

**Prerequisite:** N/A

This course will emphasize the development of movement skills and movement knowledge, self-image, personal growth, and social evolution through the learning and practice of various modern dance routines and styles. Students will be introduced to and participate in a variety of individual, dual, cooperative activities. Daily participation in exercises that improve flexibility, muscle strength, and cardiovascular endurance will emphasize the benefits of lifetime health and fitness. \*Students wanting to repeat the course must get instructor's approval.

### **Intermediate Dance**

Course # 26116

**Grade Level(s):** 7<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Semester

**Prerequisite:** Dance Beginning and/or instructor approval

This course is designed to provide students with opportunities to explore dance as an art and physical exercise. Students will be introduced to a variety of styles of dance including jazz, lyrical, modern, ballet, musical theater, and multi-cultural. This course will also focus on the development of movement skills and movement knowledge, self-image and personal growth, and social evolution.

### **Drama**

Course # 26134

**Grade Level(s):** 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Semester

**Prerequisite:** None

Drama course for incoming 6th graders. Introduction to basic drama terms and skills. Drama course for grades 6 - 8. Introduction to basic drama terms and skills. Drama activities focus on orientation to stage, performance standards, novice live improvisation and entry-level understanding of character development as well as theatrical terminology.

### **Guitar I**

Course # 7000

**Grade Level(s):** 6<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Semester

**Prerequisite:** N/A

This class is designed for the beginning guitar student. Students will learn to read music notation in treble clef on the guitar and demonstrate knowledge of reading basic rhythm notation accurately. Students are encouraged to join in 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade due to the large size of the guitars; however, it is still open to 6<sup>th</sup> graders.

### **Unified Explore (Dance/Art)**

Course # 25907

**Grade Level(s):** 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Semester

**Prerequisite:** Application

This course is a fully inclusive program that combines students with disabilities and students without in a 50/50 ratio. One semester will be Unified Dance and the other Unified Art. Unified Dance and Art combine all students to participate in developmentally appropriate activities. Students will work together to increase competence and confidence in a variety of physical activities. Through ongoing leadership opportunities, members of this course will be empowered to help create a more inclusive and accepting school environment for all students. All students should be encouraged to use their unique skills to support each other.

## **Year Long Electives**

### **Art III**

Course # 26137

**Grade Level(s):** 7<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Year

**Prerequisite:** Art II

This course is for experienced artists with a solid foundation in Art. The course will consist of exploration in multiple mediums by painting, drawing and coloring. This class will challenge the students to think creatively and have an active role in their growth in art and art styles. Students within this class should have taken and passed at least two previous art classes or by show of portfolio to the teacher.

### **Cadet Band**

Course # 26105

**Grade Level(s):** 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Year

**Prerequisite(s):** One year of playing experience

This entry/intermediate-level, performance-based course provides students with a variety of concert band experiences. Music is studied and performed from an entry and intermediate level

of middle school repertoire. Sight-reading skills and basic theory are intermixed in the education of music styles. This ensemble performs at concerts and community events. Extracurricular commitment is required. Only band instruments are used in this course (i.e. – flute, clarinet, saxophone, oboe, bassoon, trumpet, horn, euphonium, trombone, tuba, and concert percussion). Please see Mr. Merrin in room B114 for more information.

### **Intermediate Band**

Course # 26106

**Grade Level(s):** 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Year

**Prerequisite(s):** 1-2 years of playing experience

This intermediate/advanced-level, performance-based course provides students with a variety of concert band experiences. Music is studied and performed from an intermediate and advanced level of middle school repertoire. Sight-reading skills and basic theory are intermixed in the education of music styles and history. This ensemble performs at festivals, clinics, and other concerts and community events. Extracurricular commitment is required. Only band instruments are used in this course (i.e. – flute, clarinet, saxophone, oboe, bassoon, trumpet, horn, euphonium, trombone, tuba, and concert percussion). Please see Mr. Merrin in room B114 for more information.

### **Symphonic Band**

Course # 26107

**Grade Level(s):** 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Year

**Prerequisite(s):** Audition

This is the most advanced group at each site. Symphonic Band is a student's elective course. By this time, students have learned most of what they need to know to play in this band, so instruction moves away from the basic elements of music to concentrate on the more abstract concepts of musicianship. This is where students put all of the pieces of previously learned knowledge together to make great music. Students perform at school concerts, for the student body, community and at festivals. Only traditional band instruments are used in this course (flute, clarinets, saxophones, oboe, bassoon, trumpet, horn, trombone, baritone horn, euphonium, tuba, and concert percussion). Please see Mr. Merrin in room B114 for more information

### **Concert/Chamber Choir**

Course # 26102/26103

**Grade Level(s):** 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> **Length of Course:** Year

**Prerequisite:** Chorale, or Placement meeting with Ms. Taylor

Concert Choir is open to students that will be enrolled in 7th grade. Chamber Choir is open to students that will be enrolled in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The song literature will represent a variety of musical styles and develop the full vocal range. Students in this class are expected to work as a team with other students and commit to learning their music for performances and festivals. Each student will read music and demonstrate appropriate rehearsal discipline and performance skills.

Students must attend all rehearsals and performances and are expected to participate in Choir Club. Please see Ms. Taylor in room B108 for more information.

### **AVID 7**

Course # 26507

**Grade Level:** 7<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Year

**Prerequisite:** Application and Interview required.

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is an exceptional program that begins in middle school and is designed to help students accomplish their dream of successfully attending a four-year college or university. AVID provides students with the skills they need to be successful in middle school and high school and the tools, guidance and courses necessary for college acceptance.

The AVID program gives day-to-day mentoring help, creates a vision of college as attainable, and provides guidance in how to negotiate the college preparatory system. AVID places students with a strong group of peers and adults who share a commitment to academic achievement. Ultimately, AVID provides structure and a sense of family to support students as they take on the academic challenges necessary to achieve their goal of acceptance to a four-year college or university. *Please see Mrs. McLellan in room F206 for more information.*

### **AVID 8**

Course # 26508

**Grade Level(s):** 8<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Year

**Prerequisite:** Application and Interview required.

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is an exceptional program that begins in middle school and is designed to help students accomplish their dream of successfully attending a four-year college or university. AVID provides students with the skills they need to be successful in middle school and high school and the tools, guidance and courses necessary for college acceptance.

The AVID program gives day-to-day mentoring help, creates a vision of college as attainable, and provides guidance in how to negotiate the college preparatory system. AVID places students with a strong group of peers and adults who share a commitment to academic achievement. Ultimately, AVID provides structure and a sense of family to support students as they take on the academic challenges necessary to achieve their goal of acceptance to a four-year college or university. *Please see Mrs. McLellan in room F206 for more information.*

### **Stagecraft (Tech Theater)**

Course # 27001

**Grade Level(s):** 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Year

**Prerequisite:** Application or Talk with Instructor or Counselor

Stagecraft is the study of technical theatre. Through exposure, exploration, and project-based learning, students identify and understand the various areas of technical theatre including scenic design, lighting, sound, costumes, and makeup. In this course, students will receive training and resources needed to be technicians and stagehands in the theatre. The course culminates with a project where students work in groups to design and plan technical elements as they would for a

production, and then simplify those designs to work in a classroom setting. To be considered for this course, students must complete an application or talk to the instructor or counselor.

### **Leadership: ASB**

Course # 26130

**Grade Level(s):** 6-8<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Year

**Prerequisite:** Application and Interview required.

The Associated Student Body (ASB) oversees school culture and ensuring the student body has clubs and activities that connect them to the school. ASB also holds events such as dances, rallies and spirit days that promote school spirit & culture. They are empowered to build programs that celebrate student and staff achievements and successes in all areas of what it means to be a Colt. They also hold celebratory rallies, dances, lunch time events, Leading the Way (Student of the Quarter) Program, and many other celebratory activities that involve the McElhinney MS Community. Leaders serve to enhance school culture through social issue awareness. Examples of social issues include anti-bullying campaigns, Red Ribbon Week, and Mix It Up Days that bring awareness to students, staff and community.

### **Unified Leadership**

Course # 25905

**Grade Level(s):** 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Year

**Prerequisite:** Application

Unified Leadership teaches leaders of all abilities to value and learn from each other. Unified Leadership inspires change to create an environment on campus of inclusion where people with and without intellectual disabilities can succeed together by being leaders at DMMS and in our community. These leadership activities help students find their voices and teach them to become change agents in their communities by promoting equity and acceptance. Social inclusion is best fostered when activities within the classroom, school and community are designed and implemented by a diverse group of students within a school.

### **Yearbook**

Course # 26132

**Grade Level(s):** 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Year

**Prerequisite:** Completion of LA with a B or better. Application and Interview

This course is designed to teach the skills necessary to produce the school yearbook, from planning the coverage for the school year and designing a unifying theme for the book, to final publication and distribution. Through the study of and practice in gathering and analyzing information, development of technology skills, interviewing, note taking and photography, students will develop skill in layout and design techniques, writing and editing copy, headlines and picture captions. Through the setting of and meeting deadlines at each step of publication,

students will improve work habits as they are responsible for all phases of yearbook publication. Finally, students will learn strategies of planning, marketing (ad sales) and distribution of the yearbook itself.

### **Competitive Dance (Dancefinity)**

Course # 26119

**Grade Level(s):** 7<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Year

**Prerequisite:** Previous dance experience and audition with teacher

This course is known as Dancefinity on campus and focuses on choreography, technique and performance. In this rigorous class, students will be required to perform multiple times throughout the year and will compete at local competitions.

### **Robotics 2**

Course # 26197

**Grade Level(s):** 7-8

**Length of Course:** Year

**Prerequisite(s):** Application and Interview required

In this course, students will deepen their understanding of engineering as they participate in robot builds to compete in the current Vex Robotics challenge. Students will expand their coding/programming skills to master automation with both command prompts, coding, and the use of sensors. This class is self-paced and offers students hands-on learning experiences.

### **Theatre Arts**

Course # 26145

**Grade Level(s):** 7<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup>

**Length of Course:** Year

**Prerequisite:** Application and audition with teacher.

This course is designed to provide students with opportunities to explore theatre as an art form and includes studying the technical, practical, and performance elements of putting on a production. Students have a mandatory culminating performance showcase at the end of the second semester.