Attention 8th Grade

McAuliffe Lions - CLASS OF 2025

**Preparations have already begun for the 2024-2025 school year and we are excited to present to you next year’s proposed classes!** Each student will take two different Humanities classes, one per semester or a full year band or chorus. Courses will run on an “A/B Day” rotation, which means your class will alternate with your PE/Health class. For example if you have PE on an “A Day” your Humanities, Band or Chorus course will be on the “B Day.” Please take some time to read over the following descriptions with your family. Once you have carefully read each description and completed the ***Course Selection Sheet***, please return it signed by both you and your parents. Please remember that there are **no guarantees** that your selection will be available. We will not be able to honor requested changes over the summer or in September. Selection sheets are due to your homeroom teacher on ***Friday, February 22.***

**2024-2025 Proposed 8th Grade Courses**

**Band:** Eighth grade band will further develop skills previously introduced during seventh grade band courses. Advanced concepts and more interesting musical styles will be focused on to prepare students for the high school band experience. Critique of performances, both student and professional, will be utilized to help refine our ensemble. Group lessons will be offered during the school day to address specific skills required by each instrument group. Students will perform at two evening concerts during the school year to present their hard work to parents, friends, and the community.

**Chorus:** Eighth grade chorus welcomes both new singers and students who have been involved in the music program for years. Our daily rehearsal consists of learning how to read music and singing a variety of music from different genres. Members of the 8th grade chorus have multiple performance opportunities including two concerts during the year and choral competitions.

**Physical Education/Social Studies Courses:**

**History of Sports:** This History elective class will examine the development of sports in America. Our historical study will focus on helping students gain a better understanding of the inner relationship sports have on social, economic, cultural, and political events in history.

**Team Building:** Think you are a team player? Do you know how to effectively communicate? This course is designed to allow students to participate in activities and challenges that require students to work and cooperate with one another, develop communication and leadership skills in order to solve a problem or succeed as a team. They will accomplish small group challenges that foster teamwork, risk taking, creativity, and problem solving.

**Self Defense:** Could you diffuse a potentially volatile situation with your words or know how to protect yourself if needed? This class will focus on safety. Self-Defense will teach safety and awareness along with practical defense drills.

**Family Consumer Science Courses:**

**Wellness and Nutrition:** This class encourages students to better develop an understanding of the nutritional needs of the human body in relation to fitness and wellness. Caloric intake including carbohydrates, fats and proteins will be evaluated as well as the importance of vitamins and minerals in the diet.

**Foods:** This class is ideal for those who have a love and zest for cooking. Fundamental and more advanced cooking techniques will be implemented and nutritional values will be incorporated when reviewing and preparing recipes.

**Technology Courses:**

**Introduction to Computer Programming**: In this class, students will enter the world of computer science by learning how to create animations, computer games, and interactive projects. Using Scratch, a graphical block style programming language developed at MIT, students will learn fundamental programming concepts such as variables, loops, conditional statements, and event handling.

**Robotics:** Within *Intro to Robotics, s*tudents will learn about engineering and engineering problem solving. They will be introduced to the LEGO Robotics Design Systems, as well as other interactive programs. Students will also be learning key STEM principles through the process of robotics competitions. The curriculum is heavily focused on mechatronic principles; as such, programming knowledge is NOT required.

**World Language**

**Advanced Spanish:** This is a high school Honors Spanish I class. The students will take an accelerated high school Spanish I curriculum in 8th grade. They will have various cultural projects, unit exams as well as a midterm & final exam. Students can advance to high school Honors II upon the successful completion of this course. Prerequisites would be a 98% or higher in 7th grade Spanish and (recommended but not required) for the student to be in an advanced math class. **This is a Unified Arts course; therefore it will run during 2 marking periods, every day (Monday-Friday) for 44 minutes per day. One of the other Unified Arts classes (Community Leadership, Art, Video Tech) will be dropped to accommodate taking this Advanced Spanish Class. Additionally, taking this class does not meet your 2 year requirement for taking a language at the high school level. This class is NOT an honors course and is not a weighted middle school class.**