

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Course Descriptions

**Forensic Science I** is an introduction to the science of solving crimes and mysteries. Students will learn the basics of crime scene investigations through hands-on learning and active participation. Each child will become a detective as they analyze fingerprints, dental records, bones, and many other types of evidence throughout this semester long course.

**Forensic Science II** is the follow up course for Forensic Science I. In this class, students will become more of a scientific sleuth as they study and analyze blood, hair and fiber, chromatography, DNA, and much more. We will also explore real-life crimes and forensic mysteries. If you've taken Forensic Science I and want to learn more, then this is the class for you!

**Marine Science** exposes students to science grade concepts related to the water planet we live on. The marine science elective supports Sherwood's advanced science curriculum as it reinforces concepts in physical, life, and earth sciences as they relate to water.

**Beginning Art** is focused on exploring the basic elements of art: line, shape, form, value, texture, and color. Much of the focus is on basic drawing, shading, and color mixing. Students will create projects using a variety of mediums including pencil, pen, oil pastel, charcoal, and paint, with the possibility of some 3-D design. Students are exposed to many well-known artworks which they learn to critique.

**Video Editing** will help students explore the creation, editing, and publishing of videos, pictures and other types of media utilizing many types of software and tools.

**Drama** offers a thorough introduction to acting in a fun and supportive atmosphere. Ideal for those with little or no acting experience, providing the chance to explore acting techniques in a playful, unintimidating and practical way.

**Intermediate Drama** (by audition only) Travels further into the realm of theatre and focuses more on the behind-the-scenes components that bring a production together. This year-long course will allow students to learn about promoting, producing, costuming and scenic design, as well as offer two productions where these components will be displayed!

**World Geography** is a high school credit course which explores the physical and social aspects of world Geography. The requirements for this course come from the State's 2011 GLE's and is an EADMS testing course. Students will be encouraged to do independent outside research using both text and online research materials. This course focuses on a wide variety of mapping skills. Students taking this course are encouraged to have a curiosity about the world.

**Girls Concert Choir** is for ANY girl in grades 7-8 interested in singing and performing, even if she has not been in choir before. Students will learn a more advanced level of singing techniques, music theory, and sight-reading and performance skills. Students will participate in many concerts and competitions, including traveling, and will also be eligible to audition for the school's show choir.

**Boys Concert Choir** is for ANY boy in grades 7-8 interested in singing and performing, even if he has not been in choir before. Students will learn a more advanced level of singing techniques, music theory, and sight-reading and performance skills. Students will participate in many concerts and competitions, including traveling, and will be eligible to audition for the school's show choir.

**Advanced Girls Choir** is for girls in grades 7-8 who have taken at least one year of choir at Sherwood. Students will either graduate automatically into this choir from Girls Concert Choir, or be placed directly into this choir at the discretion of the choir director. Students will learn a much higher level of singing techniques, music theory, and sight-reading and performance skills in this class. Students will participate in many concerts and competitions and will also be eligible to audition for the school's show choir (Teacher approval required before

**Beginner Band** is open to all 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students who have **never** been in band before. The course will include learning about the various instruments, choosing an instrument, understanding basic musical symbols, and increasing one's personal ability on his/her instrument. This band will perform in at least two concerts per school year.

**Intermediate Band** is for those 6<sup>th</sup>-8th grade students who have at least 1 year of prior band experience (either at Sherwood or at a previous school). The course will focus on increased understanding of musical symbols and notation, concert music, and increasing one's personal ability on their instrument. This band will perform in at least 4 concerts per school year, with the potential to participate at both in and out of town concerts/festivals.

**Advanced Band** is for those 7th and 8th grade students who have completed at least 1 year of prior band experience (either at Sherwood or at a previous school). This band is composed of the most technically proficient student musicians and they must already possess a very strong understanding of one's instrument. The course will focus on an advanced understanding of musical symbols and notation, concert music, and increasing one's personal ability on their instrument. This band will perform in at least 6 concerts per school, with the potential to participate at both in and out of town concerts/festivals.

**Beginning Orchestra** is for students who haven't been in a strings program, or who haven't had a lot of experience playing stringed instruments. The focus of this class is to teach basic rhythms and string techniques. Students will learn to read music notes and rhythms.

**Intermediate Orchestra** is for students that have been in a strings class before. Students will review basic rhythms and techniques, while learning more complex skills. Reading music will be a focus in the class, as students will be exposed to intermediate level pieces of music.

**Advanced Orchestra** Participation in this class is by audition only. Students will be expected to know basic rhythms and techniques. Students will be exposed to more challenging music, with a large focus on quality of sound and reading more complex rhythms.

**Yearbook** is for 8th grade students only. Students learn and use the elements of design as well as the web-based design program to create the school's Yearbook. Topics such as photography, reporting, and advertising are also discussed. Students must be in good academic standing to take this course.

**Pre-Law** This class visits the basics of law. Students will explore topics such as criminal and civil law, constitutional rights, forensics, the courtroom and courtroom strategy. The students will participate in a mock trial, playing the roles of attorneys, witnesses, and jury. Students will learn correct public speaking and how to defend an argument bases on supporting evidence.

**Intermediate Art** is for students who have taken Beginning Art in middle school. This course builds on the concepts learned in Beginning Art while also focusing on the elements of design. More emphasis is placed on students creating themes and concepts for their own projects. Students will continue to improve their skills in critiquing artworks.

**Advanced Art** Advanced Art is a year-long course for students who have previously taken both Beginning and Intermediate Art. Eighth grade students who have only taken Beginning Art but who have exceptional skills and work ethic may be admitted into Advanced Art at the discretion of Mrs. Tremblay. This course continues to build students' knowledge of art terms, mediums, and concepts, but the main focus is on gaining artistic independence. Throughout the course, students learn how to select subject matter for their artworks and how to use the elements and principles of art to communicate their own personal point of view.

**Movement and Dance A** Students will explore beginning dance forms (modern, jazz, ballet, contemporary, tap) applying the dance elements, principles of design, and dance benchmarks. They develop collaboration, critical thinking, and social skills.

**Movement and Dance B** Students will continue exploring dance forms and applying the dance elements, principles of design, and dance benchmarks. Teacher approval required.

**Ballet** The student will learn basic beginner steps and techniques of ballet, along with vocabulary and a brief history of ballet figures. This class requires a motivated learner, a performance level attitude from all students as this class can be challenging.

**Intermediate/Advanced Piano** is a full-year course only open to 7th & 8th graders who have already taken Beginning Piano or Intermediate Piano at Sherwood. Students will continue learning and developing their piano skills and techniques, as well as continue to read and perform more advanced music, moving at their own individualized pace. Students will perform in several recitals throughout the school year. Must have teacher approval to sign up for this course.

**Keyboarding** is a high school credit course that focuses on developing the skills for personal and vocational use on the computer. Students will develop correct techniques and focus on digital literacy standards. Students will apply formatting skills to create documents and work on developing accuracy and proofreading skills. In addition, students will use keyboarding skills to develop digital presentations.