

MMS 7th & 8th Grade Elective Course Offerings

Listed below are the titles for elective classes offered at Mariner Middle School. Every student is required to take a semester of Physical Education each year. Spanish is a requirement based on space in your schedule after core courses are scheduled. We will make every effort to schedule you into your top choices.

Once you have read through the descriptions, please click this link to fill out your request [7th and 8th Grade Elective Request Form](#)

Physical Education (Physical and Health Education) – (Semester) The purpose of this course is to provide a foundation of knowledge, skills and values necessary for the development of a physically active lifestyle. The course content provides exposure to a variety of movement opportunities and experiences which includes, but is not limited to: Fitness Activities and Team Sports. The integration of fitness concepts throughout the content is critical to student success in this course and in the development of a healthy and physically active lifestyle.

Spanish II (Language Acquisition) – (Year) This course focuses on the development of communicative competence in reading, writing, speaking and listening and viewing, as well as on understanding Hispanic cultures and issues of identity of heritage speakers of Spanish in the United States. Students will also develop an awareness and understanding of Hispanic culture.

Spanish III (Language Acquisition) – (Year) The course for Spanish 1B (level 3) is designed to develop and span all four language skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking to stimulate young people to work together towards language proficiency. Also, culture and geographical aspects of Chile, Mexico, Argentina, and Florida.

Beginning Band (Arts) – (Year) This class is designed as an introduction to the development of beginning level skills on wind and percussion instruments. Within the year, the students work towards and perform one concert in the spring. The main components of beginning band are: developing skills on woodwind, brass and percussion instruments, learning to read music, learning a variety of repertoire from various styles and cultures, following a conductor, active listening, performance assessment, and contributing as a member of the overall ensemble. No musical knowledge is required to enter this class.

***Intermediate Band (Arts) – (Year)** This class is designed for the student that has succeeded in beginning band. The student should have a solid foundation in the fundamentals of music, which are acquired in beginning band. The emphasis in this group is to enhance their fundamentals of music and perform more difficult music.

***Advanced Band (Arts) – (Year)** The student who enrolls in this course has successfully met all the requirements from the beginning and intermediate bands. Students will work on advanced technical studies and compositions that will prepare them for high school level band.

Beginning Guitar (Arts) – (Year) Students will have an opportunity to learn the basics about playing the guitar. Instruction will include proper technique, music theory, chord recognition, ensemble work, and music history. Students move at a quick pace, and success with the guitar

will depend greatly on individual practice. Students will be given information about where they can obtain an instrument.

***Intermediate Guitar (Arts) – (Year)** This class is designed for the student that has succeeded in beginning guitar. The student should have a solid foundation in the fundamentals of guitar, proper technique, music theory, chord recognition, ensemble work, and music history. The emphasis in this group is to enhance their fundamentals of the guitar and perform more difficult music.

Percussion & Drums (Arts) - (Year) What kid doesn't like to hit things? This class will be a fun performance based class introduction to all things percussion. Open to all grade levels and no previous musical experience is necessary, students will learn how to read music and play each of the percussion instruments. (Drum set, Snare and Bass drum, Xylophone, Vibraphone and many in between). Many of these students move on to join the Concert band, Orchestra or Marching drumline.

Visual Art (Arts) – (Semester) Time to get creative! This course will introduce students to the elements (line, form, color, value, texture) and principles (balance, rhythm, variety, harmony, emphasis) of design. The course touches on drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, and more.

Culinary/Horticulture (Design) – (Semester) The Horticulture Class is designed to help students understand the nutritional, aesthetic, environmental, and therapeutic values of horticulture. Students will be actively involved in the following: garden basics, tools & equipment, soil, weather and seasons, germination, transplanting, botany, reproduction, pollination, beneficial insects and pest control. In addition, students will learn about watering, weeding, erosion, and crop maintenance. There will also be a heavy emphasis on the history, origins, plant-based crafts, and the many cultural uses of foods. This class is to help you improve your food preparation skills and to increase your independence in preparing foods. Cooking is a life skill that can be developed with practice and knowledge of safety and sanitation. The goal of this class is to give you the opportunity to practice preparing foods so that you will improve your cooking skills as well as to learn how to eat a nutritionally balanced diet.

Technology & Coding (Design) – (Year) The purpose of this course is to give students an opportunity to explore the areas of technology and the associated careers. Students will be given the opportunity to solve technological problems using a variety of tools, materials, processes and systems while gaining an understanding of the effects of technology and engineering on our everyday lives. An additional focus on digital citizenship and safety is also included. The course will also introduce the student to basic programming as well as problem solving strategies. This course will involve students in the development, building and programming of a LEGO Mindstorms robot. Students will work hands-on in teams to design, build, program and document their progress.

Drama (Arts) – (Semester) The course explores the fundamentals of theatrical production. All successful productions are based on the synthesis of all the production elements. Instruction will focus on the elements and function of design in the presentation of a dramatic event.

***TV Production (Design) – (Year)** This course is assigned by teacher recommendation only. This course is for those interested in TV broadcasting. Learn how to produce a script, edit film, work a mixer and anchor a news show. The students will produce the Mariner Middle daily news.

***Yearbook (Design) – (Year)** This class is assigned by teacher recommendation only. This class will design the yearbook by producing pictures, captions, copy, headlines, graphics, and artwork to complete each page of memories. This class consists of selling ads, covering activities, events and issues as well as taking pictures at all events during and after school. We will need writers, editors, photographers, and creative people.

***Mariner Mates – (Semester)** This class is assigned by consideration only. This course is designed to offer students an opportunity to gain real life experience through working with teachers and administrators as teacher assistants.