Grade 8 Cycle Options

Students in 8th grade take a new cycle class each marking period. All students must take Health as one of their four cycles During the Spring of their 7th grade year, students will select their top 8th grade cycle choices. We make every effort to support students' requests, with almost all students being guaranteed at least two of their top three choices.

Below are the exciting 8th grade cycle class options!

Anthropology

Have you ever wondered why kids in the US eat cereal or pancakes for breakfast, but kids in Japan eat rice, miso soup and broiled fish? Maybe you've wondered why certain objects are called different names depending on the region of the US, like subs, hoagies, grinders, po' boys or heroes? Have you ever wondered what you have in common with a teen growing up in the Amazon rainforest? Then Anthropology has the answers for you! The study of Anthropology combines both science and social studies to help understand the similarities between ancient cultures and modern society. We'll learn about how social practices and patterns like music, dance, clothing, medicine, holidays, festivals and celebrations are different across world cultures. You'll understand how verbal and nonverbal language influences your social life, and how we can learn about past cultures through archaeology. Every day will be filled with new and fascinating facts that will enable you to not only travel the world from your classroom, but will help you understand and appreciate who you are as an individual.

Art

You continue to create artwork based on a variety of sources - art projects designed to communicate ideas, express feelings, portray action or movement are emphasized. You are trained in skills to extend your ability to solve problems or modify artistic statements. You are also encouraged to respect different styles and kinds of artwork, as well as become aware of criteria for judging your own and others' art.

Computer Science

Scratch Advanced – Take Scratch programming to the next level with more detailed animations, games, and interactive projects. In Scratch Advanced, students will expand on their computer science fundamentals by learning more in depth loops, variables, scrolling, and event actions.

Conspiracies and Mysteries in History

Conspiracies and Mysteries in History is a hands-on student-centered research-based class. We will explore some of the most interesting, controversial, and perplexing conspiracies and mysteries from around the world that professional historians are trying to solve today. During the ten-week course students will research, theorize, and discover materials to try and uncover an answer to whether or not a mystery is solvable, or if we can prove that a conspiracy is actually true, or if it just a fictional story. We will look at topics such as the JFK Assassination, D.B. Cooper, The Mystery of Oak Island, The Amber Room, The Knights Templar, and more.

Music

The 8th grade general music program focuses on learning guitar fundamentals. Students learn to read and perform guitar music in small groups as well as alone. They learn to play duos, trios, or quartets as well as complete a research project on a modern day artist or group and perform one of their songs. Music theory, history, and other activities such as bucket drumming are included throughout the cycle.

National History Day

National History Day is an exciting research-based history course and competition. Students will explore some of the most interesting and diverse topics in history based upon a national theme each year. The research projects that students complete teach them the life skills of critical thinking and problem solving, research and reading skills, oral and written communications and presentation skills. National History Day gives students the opportunity to explore and learn about topics outside of the materials covered in a traditional social studies classroom. This cycle is highly encouraged for students looking to take honors and AP history classes in high school, as it helps student develop the skills necessary to be successful in that environment.

Technology Engineering and Design - Robotics

This is a beginning course in robotics. Students will learn basic programming as well as problem solving strategies. Students will work through various design challenges that lead to the construction of several types of robots, including teleoperated, pre-programmed, and autonomous. In addition, the course will discuss topics heavily debated in the field.