

2023-24 HIDDEN VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL 8TH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Art Foundations I: Art Foundations 1 provides an overview of visual arts while studying a broad variety of art tools and materials. With an emphasis on studio production, this course is designed to develop higher-level thinking, art related technology skills, art criticism, art history and aesthetics.

Art Foundations II (Pre-req: Art Foundations I): Art Foundations 2 provides an overview and introduction to visual arts through studying a variety of art tools and materials. This course builds on Foundations 1 with a more in-depth experience with fewer art forms. This course is designed to develop higher-level thinking, art related technology skills, art criticism, art history, and aesthetics, with an emphasis on studio production.

Band I: This is a beginning band class offered for students who wish to learn to play the cornet, trumpet, french horn, baritone horn, euphonium, trombone or tuba. Practice outside of class time and performances are part of this course. An instrument is required. If available, a french horn, baritone horn, euphonium or tuba may be rented at the school for a nominal fee.

Band II - (Honors Band) (Pre-req: Percussion I): This is an intermediate level band course that encourages increased technical and expressive musical proficiency through performance and study of music. Rehearsals and performances outside of class time are part of the course requirement and constitute a portion of the grade. French horn, baritone horn, euphonium, or tuba may be rented at the school for a nominal fee.

Ceramics I: Ceramics develops basic skills in the creation of 3-D forms and pottery from clay. Techniques in hand building, wheel throwing, basic glazing, and firing are taught. With an emphasis on studio production, this course is designed to develop higher-level thinking and art-related technology skills. Some art criticism, art history, and aesthetics may be included.

Choir I Tenor / Bass (Male): This is a vocal music course open to all students with tenor or bass vocal ranges. Two, three and four part music performed at various concerts. Primary consideration is given to part-singing, good vocal production and rudiments of music. Rehearsals and performances outside of class time are part of the course requirements and constitute a portion of the grade.

Concert Choir: (pre-req or audition) This is an advanced vocal music group that is designed for students to sing advanced choral literature and build more techniques in singing. Rehearsals and performances outside of class time are part of the course requirements and constitute a portion of the grade.

Creative Writing: This course, based on Utah English Language Arts (ELA) Core Writing Standards, is designed to introduce students to imaginative composition with the writing of personal experiences, character sketches, short fiction, and poetry. Students will have the opportunity to prepare manuscripts for publication, awards, and scholarships.

Dance I: This course offers basic dance techniques, fitness fundamentals, movement qualities and rhythm with an emphasis on creativity, sequencing and problem solving.

Dance II (Pre-req: Dance I): This course offers basic dance techniques, fitness fundamentals, movement qualities, and rhythm with an emphasis on creativity, sequencing, and problem solving.

Dance / Company (Advanced) (Required: Audition April 5th & 6th): A course designed to enhance and develop all aspects of dance technique and composition, emphasizing creativity and artistic choreographic skills. There will be performances outside of class time that are part of the course requirements, and they will constitute a portion of the grade.

Drawing I: Drawing focuses on black and white or monochromatic rendering from life, pictures, masterworks, and imagination. This course is designed to develop higher-level thinking and art-related technology skills with an emphasis on studio production. Some experiences in art criticism, art history, and aesthetics may be included.

Exploring Business and Marketing: Students will be exposed to the fundamentals concepts of business and marketing. Skills include basic business concepts, organizational communication, human resources management, entrepreneurship, accounting, finance, and leadership.

Exploring Technology: Exploring Technology is an action-based course that introduces students to the technological systems of two or more of the following areas: energy-power technologies, information and communications technologies, transportation technologies, manufacturing technologies, and construction technologies. The course is designed around exploration in cooperative and individualized activities rather than project and skill development.

FACS: This Family and Consumer Science course provides students with the essential life skills. The course allows students to develop skills in two or more of the following areas: food and nutrition, childcare and safety, interior design and care of a home, clothing construction and style, consumerism, family relationships, personal responsibility, and job-related skills.

French I: This course is designed to teach elementary skills in listening, speaking, reading and spelling. The curriculum covered in this course will give students the skills to communicate in culturally-appropriate ways in the target language. By the end of this course students' skill level should be at novice-mid level according to the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language (ACTFL) standards. Students will develop an appreciation for the culture of the countries where the language is spoken.

French II (Pre-req: French I): This course is designed to teach intermediate skills in listening, speaking, reading and spelling. The curriculum covered in this course will give students the skills to communicate in culturally-appropriate ways in the target language. By the end of this course, student skill level should be at novice-high level according to the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language (ACTFL) standards. Students will develop an appreciation for the culture of the countries where the language is spoken.

Guitar: This course provides opportunities for students to develop their musical potential and aesthetic understanding through learning to play a guitar. Emphasis is placed on playing position, tone production, fundamental technique, simultaneous playing and singing, reading music, and composing songs/lyrics. Knowledge and skills will include experiences in singing, playing, listening, and connecting to cultures. Instrument required.

Harmony Choir (Soprano/Alto): Emphasis is placed on quality vocal production, individual singing, and music reading skills. Rehearsals and performances outside of class time are part of the course requirement and will constitute a portion of the grade.

Math Lab: This is a course designed to give students additional time for math work. Students will receive a pass/fail grade.

Orchestra I: This class is for students who would like to learn to play the violin, viola, cello or string bass. No experience necessary. Practice outside of class time and performance are part of this course. Instruments are required. If available, a viola, a cello, or a string bass may be rented from the school for a nominal fee.

Orchestra II - (Pre-req: Orchestra I): This is an intermediate-level orchestra class focusing on intermediate-level literature for orchestra. Rehearsals and performances outside of class time are part of the course requirements and will constitute a portion of the grade. Practice outside of class time with an instrument is required. If available, a viola, a cello, or a string bass may be rented from the school for a nominal fee.

Painting I: Painting 1 includes wet and dry color media with processes such as transparent and opaque painting focusing on the properties of color. Techniques with color media mixing and application will be covered. With an emphasis on studio production, this course is designed to develop higher-level thinking skills and art-related technology skills. Some art criticism, art history, and aesthetics may be included.

Peer Tutor: This course is a course in which students learn and apply social and academic skills and strategies. This class may cover the following areas: Organization, time management, stress management, reading strategies, test taking strategies, study strategies, note taking, academic tracking, teamwork, communication and goal setting, learning and interest assessments.

Percussion (Drums): This is a beginning band class offered for students who wish to learn to play the drums, mallet, keyboard instruments, and other percussion-related instruments. Practice outside of class time and performances are part of this course. Drum sticks are required. A drum kit or mallets may also be required as per teacher request. One-year piano experience required.

Percussion II (Pre-req: Perc I or Teacher Sig): This course is designed for students to perform as a percussion ensemble as well as possibly performing with concert band, symphonic band. Students with drum or mallet percussion experience (i.e., marimba, xylophone, and bells) are encouraged to improve their skills in a large-group setting. Rehearsals and performances outside of class time are part of the course requirement and constitute a portion of the grade.

Portuguese Brazil History & Culture (DLI Students Only): This course continues the development of speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. Narratives and dialogues are used to teach structure and vocabulary. Culture and geography of the Portuguese-speaking countries are taught through reading selections. For dual immersion students only.

Python I - A beginning course for non experienced programmers. Students learn and practice coding using python programming language.

Python II - (Pre-req: Python I): A quality computer science curriculum that not only engages students in interesting, collaborative learning activities using sound pedagogical strategies, but it also ensures that students are learning concepts vital to the deep and broad field of computer science. Python has been designed to achieve this goal by aligning with the CSTA K-12 Computer Science Standards. This course is primarily an introductory programming course, and units are grounded in an array of standards from the strands of computational thinking, collaboration, computing practice and programming, computer and communication devices, and community, global and ethical impacts.

Reading 8H: This course, based on the 8th Grade Utah English Language Arts (ELA) Core Standards, is designed for students who qualify for more advanced instruction in reading and comprehension, vocabulary, and reading skills for reading above grade level literary, informational, and functional texts.

Spanish I: This course is designed to teach elementary skills in listening, speaking, reading and spelling. The curriculum covered in this course will give students the skills to communicate in culturally-appropriate ways in the target language. By the end of this course, student skill level should be at novice-mid level according to the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language (ACTFL) standards. Students will develop an appreciation for the culture of the countries where the language is spoken.

Spanish II (Pre-req: Spanish II): This course is designed to teach intermediate skills in listening, speaking, reading and spelling. The curriculum covered in this course will give students the skill to communicate in culturally-appropriate ways in the target language. By the end of this course, students' skill level should be at novice-high level according to the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language (ACTFL) standards. Students will develop an appreciation of the culture of the countries where the language is spoken.

Stage Design: This course teaches scenery construction, scenery painting and all other aspects of production for school musicals and plays.

Student Aide - This is a Semester course that offers students a unique experience working with teachers. This position provides an opportunity to observe and model an adult at work. It provides a wide range of learning opportunities in areas such as life skills, human development, and career exploration. Teacher aides experience the opportunity to practice reliable citizenship and social skills as they interact with peers, school staff and the general public. **Student will receive a pass or fail grade (P/F).*

Study Hall: This course is a course in which students learn and apply social and academic skills and strategies. This class may cover the following areas: Organization, time management, stress management, reading strategies, test taking strategies, study strategies, note taking, academic tracking, teamwork, communication and goal setting, learning and interest assessments.

Theatre (Beginning): There are two basic goals in theatre education: finding meaning in works of theatre art through the study and appreciation of theatre as an art form, and constructing meaning in works of theatre art through film analysis, improvisation and the following competitive areas: dramatic and humorous interpretations, mono acting, scenes from plays and pantomime.

Theatre (Intermediate) (Pre-req: Beginning Theatre): This is an intermediate course in theatre with an emphasis on performance and playwriting. The course will include, but not be limited to, playwriting, characterization, monologues, scenes from plays, movement, voice projection and diction and improvisation. Other skills learned and developed include critical thinking, rehearsal skills, plot structure, reading, writing and cooperative group work.

Weight Training I: This is a physical education course designed to give students the opportunity to learn weight training concepts and techniques used for obtaining optimal physical fitness. Students will benefit from comprehensive weight training and cardiorespiratory endurance activities. Students will learn the basic fundamentals of weight training, strength training, aerobic training and overall fitness training and conditioning. Course includes both lecture and activity sessions. Students will be empowered to make wise choices, meet challenges and develop positive behaviors in fitness, wellness and movement activity for a lifetime.