

GVMS Elective Course Descriptions

2024-25 School Year

Electives (Year-Long)

Band Intermediate: This course is for students who wish to develop their performance skills beyond the beginning level. Students will encounter a continuation of skills and fundamentals from beginning band, with increasing emphasis on better tone production, good intonation, refinement of muscular coordination, experimentation in small ensembles, and memorization of scales in basic keys. Responsibilities of the individual within the large music ensemble will be stressed. Public performances will be required.

Band Advanced: Prerequisite is previous band experience or director approval. A sequel to intermediate band for those students wishing to continue their musical growth in a basically performance-oriented setting. Includes study of music theory and history relevant to the music being learned and continued work on more advanced technique of the instrument. Annual performance includes a minimum of two school concerts and festivals. Participation in solo/ensemble festival is also possible. Placement is dependent upon the band director's approval. Home practice is required.

Choir Intermediate: As a sequel to Beginning Chorus, this course is for students with previous choral training. An emphasis will be placed on vocal technique and a variety of choral literature. Several required performances include school concerts and district festivals.

Choir Advanced: This course is for students with previous training in the fundamentals of choral music. It will involve further study of vocal technique with emphasis on individual and group musical development. Several required performances include school concerts, school district festivals and outside school performances.

Orchestra Intermediate: This course is for students who wish to develop their performance skills beyond a fundamental level. Students will encounter a continuation of skills and fundamentals from beginning orchestra with increasing emphasis on better tone production, good intonation, refinement of muscular coordination, experimentation in small ensembles, and memorization of scales in basic keys. Responsibilities of the individual within the large music ensemble will be stressed. Public performances will be required.

Orchestra Advanced: This class is a sequel to String Ensemble for students wishing to continue their musical growth in a basically performance-oriented setting. (Advanced seventh graders may audition for this mostly eighth grade class.) Less individual help is given than in the String Ensemble. Private lessons are highly desirable and strongly recommended. It is preferred that students enrolling in this class have had some experience in third position. Annual performances include two evening school concerts, three

assemblies, an area festival, a solo/ensemble festival for selected students, a tour to surrounding elementary schools, and a mall performance. Auditions are held in the fall for the even more advanced double quartets. Students should provide their own violins and violas. Cellos will be available for school use. (Another cello should be obtained for home practice.) String basses are provided by the school. Entrance to this class is by audition or orchestra teacher recommendation.

French A (7th grade only): Students are active participants in learning experiences which encourage confidence and proficiency in listening, speaking, reading and writing of French. Units of study integrate the culture of France and other Francophone countries and introduce meaningful vocabulary centered around thematic topics such as school, city and family life, body, food, clothing, numbers, telling time, place, and sports. Basic grammatical structures are introduced to support the developing writing skills.

French B: Prerequisite: The successful completion of French A. Students continue to develop and expand their proficiency in listening comprehension, speaking, reading and writing of French. Thematic topics such as courtesy expressions, home, school, city, country, animals, nature, transportation, careers, nationalities and geography are continued. Communicative activities in French will involve students in a variety of practical situations for further development of their oral fluency and written language skills. More in-depth studies of French and Francophone cultures as well as grammatical structures are done to assist students in building a strong foundation for entry into the high school French II course.

Spanish A (7th grade only): Students are active participants in learning experiences which encourage confidence and proficiency in listening, speaking, reading and writing of Spanish. Units of study integrate the culture of countries where Spanish is spoken and introduce meaningful vocabulary centered around thematic topics such as school, city and family life, body, food, clothing, numbers, telling time, place, and sports. Basic grammatical structures are introduced to support the developing writing skills.

Spanish B: Prerequisite: Spanish 1A (earning a grade of C or higher) or pass the Spanish A comprehensive final exam with 80% or higher.

Students continue to develop and expand their proficiency in listening comprehension, speaking, reading and writing of Spanish. Thematic topics such as courtesy expressions, food, clothing, the body, nature, transportation, careers, nationalities and geography are continued. Communicative activities in Spanish will involve students in a variety of practical situations for further independent development of their oral fluency and written language skills. There is a more in-depth study of Spanish grammatical structures as well as language and culture to assist students in building a strong foundation for entry into the high school Spanish II course.

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Electives (Semester-Long)

Applied Tech: In this course students will learn about how to use technology to solve problems, design projects, and create products. Projects are assigned and students are challenged to design solutions by using information, teamwork, technology, and their creativity. Solutions will be constructed using a variety of materials, hand tools, power tools, and computerized equipment. Some examples of projects include CO2 dragsters, airfoil design, bridge construction, egg drop design, computer aided drafting, power boat construction, and many, many more. Projects will be different for each semester.

Applied Technology 8: Applied Technology 8 is an extension of the principles and skills explored in Applied Technology. This hands-on course couples continuing technology education with engineering exploration. Course topics include engineering design using computer aided drafting, engineering principles and processes, and more advanced carpentry projects incorporating project planning and the proper use of hand and power tools.

Prerequisite: The successful completion of Applied Technology

Art Survey I: Students may elect to enroll in a semester-long development of units in drawing, painting, printmaking, pottery and sculpture. The course focuses on alignment to the Alaska Visual Arts Standards of create, present, respond, and connect. The course encompasses the use of the elements and principles of design as a point of departure. A variety of artists and cultures are introduced in relationship with the role visual art plays in history and cultures. Students learn to value their own art works with the same criteria used to analyze a master's art works. They will be able to identify and investigate art and art related careers in conjunction with introduced units of study.

Art Survey II: Students may elect to enroll in a semester course designed to provide students with opportunities to expand and translate ideas, feelings and values into personal experiences. The course focuses on alignment to the Alaska Visual Arts Standards of create, present, respond, and connect. The design elements and principles will be expanded and reinforced in this course. Students will acquire artistic skills to express and communicate responses to experiences, explore their creative abilities and heritage within the context of a global view, make informed aesthetic responses in relation to their own art and works of professional artists, and investigate the scope of visual arts related occupations.

Creative Writing: This course is designed to give students the opportunity to think and write creatively. The goal of this course is to encourage a love of writing and to guide you as you hone your craft. It is through writing that life can become more meaningful and inspiring. Writing can clarify, heal, excite, encourage, remind, inspire, and make the world a better place. This class is the beginning for you to be a poet, a free-lance writer, a story teller, an essayist, a non-fiction writer, or whatever you choose to become. There will be many options presented to you. If you make the effort to write in this class you are assured a very good grade. This class is about exploring the different writing genres.

Family & Consumer Science: This course is designed for students to work in small groups and individually to explore all areas of the family and consumer sciences: food preparation and nutrition, caregiving, textile creations and clothing care, living environments, personal finances, strictly personal issues and careers. Technology in the home and organizational management will be integrated into the studies. Students will complete activities that include research and a variety of hands-on and computer activities.

Guitar-Beginning: This class will introduce students to the traditional 6 string acoustic guitar. **This class is for the beginning guitarist.** In this class, the student will learn how to apply basic musical concepts, such as rhythm, harmony, and melody to the guitar. Concepts taught will include tuning, note reading, strumming, and chord reading. Student must provide his/her own **acoustic guitar**, set of strings and guitar picks.

History of American Cinema: History of American Cinema will introduce students to the exciting world of film. Students will get to view a variety of films and explore their effects on American society, as well as how the American culture and events influenced film. They will also learn about the different genres of film, important filmmakers, filmmaking techniques, the rating system, how music and audio changed movies, and how cinematic technology has grown throughout film history. The students will have the opportunity to critique movies, create movie reviews, create posters, and create multiple forms of media, including zoetrope strips or flipbooks, silent films, and much more!

Law Studies: This course is patterned after the Anchorage Youth Court. Students will be trained in court procedure and specific positions. Enrichment field trips are scheduled for the crime lab and courthouse.

Peer Mentor Music: Our Peer Mentor Music course is made up of students with special needs, peer mentors, and staff members who engage in music and movement as a way to promote awareness, inclusion and modeling positive peer interactions. *Selection is made by music teachers.

Percussion Ensemble: Percussion Ensemble offers music students the opportunity to play traditional and non-traditional percussion instruments in a group setting. Basic drum rudiments will be taught in addition to mallet percussion techniques. A wide variety of instruments will be performed including the snare drum, drum set, xylophone, vibraphone, marimba, including non-traditional instruments such as trash cans, brooms, chairs, and wooden poles. This group is offered by teacher approval only. Students need to have prior music experience.

Photography: This class is designed to help you gain a better understanding of photography. Exploring camera functions, and the elements of photo composition, you will put theory into practice by taking your own spectacular shots! You will also learn how to display your work for exhibitions and develop skills important as a photographer. We will utilize our smart phone cameras and the different camera apps, as well as using the class set of digital cameras.

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Science Seminar (Forensics): GV CSI Crime Lab! This class is primarily lab-based involving aspects of Forensic Science. In this class, we analyze hair samples, bullet striations, bite marks, tire and foot prints, DNA, glass fragments, ink, and much more. Students will scientifically investigate crime scenes by collecting and analyzing data, performing experiments, determining the validity of tests, and forming conclusions based off of the evidence and facts collected. If you love science, experimenting, and solving mysteries, this class is for you.

Strategies of Success: This elective is designed to assist students who are struggling in their core classes. Through careful monitoring of daily assignments and assistance from a core team teacher, students will learn to organize, manage time more efficiently, prioritize daily work, and plan for long-term assignments. Students will also learn a variety of study skills to apply in all of their classes.

School Business Partnership (Suns Café): Learn how to run a real business! Students learn interviewing, budget and advertising methods and are each given a specific job title; they fill out timesheets, are responsible for daily ledger entries, and actually work in the café before school. Revenues from sales are used for community service projects that the class selects, such as books for the homeless, funds for Science Olympiad, nonperishable items for one of the food banks, etc.

Ukulele, Beginning: Introductory course for students who do not read music or have limited experience with the ukulele. Studies include note-reading in the first position, basic chords, basic music theory, strumming and fingerstyle pattern accompaniment and an introduction to solo and ensemble repertoire. Performance skills will be developed and opportunities for a recital/concert may be offered.

Video Production: This course is designed for students to learn proper techniques for filming video and editing video and photos. Students will use a variety of editing software such as Adobe Premiere Pro, Photoshop and iMovie. Students will also learn how to properly use an SD card, a video camera, a point-and-shoot camera and a tripod.

Additional Opportunities - Application Required

Aide Positions: (semester) - 8th grade only

Office: An office aide performs a wide variety of assigned duties in the front office. These duties include the collecting of attendance, delivery of call slips, messages and filing. Regular attendance and 3.0 grade point average is required. Signature is required by office staff on elective choice form.

Teacher: Aides are selected by individual teachers. Teacher aides assist teachers in filing materials, bulletin board preparation and various other duties. Grades are based on attendance, attitude and performance. Teacher signature required on elective choice form.

GVTV Announcements: This course will introduce students to a variety of broadcast technologies as well as communication skills. Students will be producing and anchoring not only daily school-wide announcements, but also video clips including interviews and human interest stories, and short documentaries. Skills being emphasized include: public speaking, interviewing, storyboard organization, video technology, and basic communication skills. Students will be selected for the class through an interview process. Prerequisite: The successful completion of Video Production.

Note: Course offerings are based on interest levels as well as staffing.

Specialized courses are available to those students who qualify for Special Education services such as Study Skills & Social Skills. You will be automatically registered for these courses if you are currently in one of these programs.