

Course Descriptions

Courses are listed alphabetically. Availability of courses may be subject to change due to staffing adjustments. MLMS makes every effort to honor student requests.

Advanced Band (8th grade only - requires Band Director approval)

Length of Course: 1 Year

This course is a sequel to intermediate band. Students will continue development of all skills taught in intermediate band with more emphasis placed on performing. Responsibilities of the individual within the large music ensemble will be stressed. Several required performances include school concerts, school district festivals and outside school performances. Students provide their own instrument except for the larger instruments that may be available from the school.

Advanced Choir

Length of Course: 1 Year

This is a yearlong course for students with previous experience reading music. This choir is performance focused with a continued emphasis on the fundamentals of voice development, sight-reading, and performance. Several required performances include school concerts, district festivals and evening performances. Only students in the Advanced Choir may audition for the Chugiak High School Choir Program.

Advanced Orchestra (requires Orchestra Director approval)

Length of Course: 1 Year

This course is for students who wish to develop their performance skills beyond an intermediate level. Students will continue development of string skills with more emphasis placed on performing. Responsibilities of the individual within the large music ensemble will be stressed. Public performances will be required. Students usually provide their own instrument except for the larger instruments that may be available from the school.

Applied Technology

Length of Course: 1 Semester

This course provides continued emphasis on problem solving scenarios and situations found in today's technologies. Students may select from the following: Technology Systems, Computer Aided Design Technology, Laser Technology, Construction Technology, Communications Technology, Video and Multimedia Technology, Earthquake Technology, Transportation Technology, GPS Technology, Space Construction Technology, Aviation Technology, Materials Technology, or Hydroponics Technology. Materials Fee required.

Art Survey I

Length of Course: 1 Semester

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. Materials Fee required.

Art Survey II (8th grade only)

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 relationship to their own art and works of professional artists, and investigate the scope of visual arts related occupations. Materials Fee required.

Beginning Orchestra (6th or 7th grade Students only)

Length of Course: 1 Year

Beginning orchestra is for students who wish to learn the fundamentals of music through playing an orchestra instrument (i.e. violin, viola, cello, bass). Basic left and right hand techniques, proper care of the instrument, and reading musical notation will be learned in a large group setting. Limited public performances may be required.

Debate

Length of Course: 1 Semester

Students will explore multiple perspectives and research and defend a variety of positions and issues while developing strong reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. The study and practice of academic debate will strengthen various language arts and civic skills including: argument construction, evidence analysis and evaluation, organization, outlining, persuasion, effective word choice, citation, research competence, media literacy, reading comprehension, summarization, public speaking, ethics, and civility.

There are required competitions on Saturdays, two per semester. Even though it is considered an elective, many times the research process goes beyond the school day meaning this class may have homework.

Digital Art

Length of Course: 1 Semester

Students will learn about Computer Aided Design, 3D Modeling, Graphics and Animation. The class uses current technology, thus programs used in the class will vary.

Drama

Length of Course: 1 Semester

Everything from improv to acting will be explored in this drama class. Emphasis will be placed on doing. Students will be expected to try activities in a supportive trusting atmosphere. Some history of theater will be studied in addition to the performance activities.

Family Consumer Science

Length of Course: 1 Semester

This course is an exploratory course emphasizing culinary, textiles and personal wellness. Students explore kitchen fundamentals, preparing nutritious meals and analyze dietary components of ingredients. Students will learn to use basic sewing techniques to stitch manually and on a machine. Materials Fee required.

Intermediate Band Level 1 (placement determined by Band Director)

Length of Course: 1 Year

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. Students provide their own instrument except for the larger instruments that may be available from the school.

Intermediate Band Level 2 (placement determined by Band Director)

Length of Course: 1 Year

This course is for students who wish to develop their performance skills beyond intermediate band (level 1). Responsibilities of the individual within the large music ensemble will be stressed. Public performances will be required. Students provide their own instrument except for the larger instruments that may be available from the school.

Intermediate Orchestra (must have completed Beginning Orchestra or have Director approval)

Length of Course: 1 Year

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. Students usually provide their own instruments, except for the larger instruments that may be available from the school.

Music Keyboarding

Length of Course: 1 Semester or 1 Year

Piano Keyboarding Classes include many facets of Music in Education. It is a class open to all students. The class includes: theory, composition, genre, history, dance, performance, technology, Orff instruments, audience etiquette, listening, manners, ukuleles, excursions and, most of all, learning how to play the piano. Students can take the class for 1 year, 2 years, or 3 years. Mirror Lake has some piano keyboards for free check out to support this class.

Outdoor Adventures

Length of Course: 1 Semester

Through exploring outdoor adventures, students will find the principals of loyalty, duty, respect, self-less service, honor, integrity, and personal courage. They will learn to rely on themselves in difficult situations but will also develop an understanding for when a challenging task requires help from others. Dressing for cold and wet weather is required for this class. Much of the class is spent outdoors.

PLTW App Creators

Length of Course: 1 Semester

Design your own mobile phone apps (ANDROID/iPhone), solve problems and make a difference in the lives of others! Learn computer skills that apply to creating 'apps' and create your own app. Who knows, maybe it will be on the next big thing!

Students will develop solutions to authentic problems through mobile app development, and will convey the positive impact of the application of computer science to other disciplines and to society. Students will customize their experience by choosing a problem that interests them from the areas of health, environment, emergency preparedness, education, community service, and school culture.

PLTW Innovators and Makers

Length of Course: 1 Semester

Ever wonder how the computer programing behind wearable technology or apps work? Join a new class and design your own project by learning how to code and program!

This class will focus on the physical computing projects that bring programming out of the virtual environment and into the physical world. Throughout the course, students will design and develop programmed devices along with the code that brings them to life. These personally relevant, visible, tangible, and shareable creations promote student awareness of interactive systems and broaden their understanding of abstract computer science concepts. Check out this example of a project coming to life: <https://www.colorkinetics.com/global/showcase/clink-street>

Spanish 1A – 7th Grade

Length of Course: 1 Year

World Language Incentive Credit – visit ASD website <http://www.asdk12.org/worldlanguages>

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 1B (must have completed Spanish 1A/teacher recommendation)

8th Grade

Length of Course: 1 Year

World Language Incentive Credit – visit ASD website <http://www.asdk12.org/worldlanguages>

Students continue to develop and expand their proficiency skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing of Spanish with more in-depth study of the Hispanic/Latino culture. Communicative activities in Spanish will involve students in a variety of practical situations for further development of the oral and written language including additional grammatical structures in preparation for level II high school language course.

Student Government

Length of Course: 1 Semester

Students help plan and organize activities and events for other students. There will be an emphasis on creating a growing culture of SPIRIT and active participation in the building. Students will work to promote activities through poster making, merchandise design, beautification of halls, creating bulletin boards, and leading assemblies. All classwork will be dedicated to team building and promoting our academic achievements and extracurricular activities. This class will have a philanthropic component as well. Each student will research and actively seek out ways to be part of community service. We will lead the school each quarter in a variety of “GIVING BACK” campaigns. Future campaigns may include Can Drive, Pennies for Patients, Adopt-A-Family etc. Participation and attendance at planned activities is required. Students who fill out an interest form and can provide a teacher recommendation will be the first considered for this class.

Video Production

Length of Course: 1 Year

MLMS has our own news crew and the team does it all! From writing scripts, to being on camera and working behind the scenes on the different video segments—be part of the action of Video News!