

# Coronado K-8 School

## 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Elective Course Descriptions

Beginning Band - This is a performance-based music class for any middle school students who want to play a wind instrument and passed on an opportunity to in elementary school. This class introduces the fundamentals of reading music and correct playing techniques to jumpstart their instrumental education and move onto a more advanced group in the future. Students who already have an instrumental background are welcome to join this class to learn a new instrument. All students must participate in two evening concerts, one at the end of each semester. Beginner percussionists should join Percussion I. Fee (Year)  
Students must be responsible and respectful to the band room and music equipment.

Intermediate Band - This is a performance-based music class for any middle school student who has a band or percussion background. Students will continue to develop their fundamental instrumental skills through the daily practice and performance routines. Students will experience traditional band repertoire throughout a variety of genres. All students must participate in evening concerts throughout the year alongside other extra-curricular performance opportunities. Students are required to practice outside of class and submit weekly practice logs with parent/guardian signatures. Percussionists will be limited to five students. Fee (Year)  
Students must be responsible and respectful to the band room and music equipment.

Advanced Band - This is a performance-based music class available for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students with prior ensemble experience. Students will experience traditional band repertoire throughout a variety of genres. Students will gain leadership experience through small group and whole group collaboration, while developing the skills necessary for high school music ensembles. All students must participate in evening concerts throughout the year alongside other extra-curricular performance opportunities. Students are required to practice outside of class and submit weekly practice logs with parent/guardian signatures. Percussionists will be audition-based and limited to five students. Fee (Year)  
Students must be responsible and respectful to the band room and music equipment.

Intermediate/Advanced Orchestra - Students must be able to read music. Students are expected to practice daily and turn in practice verification sheets signed by a parent. There will be mandatory evening concerts students must attend to maintain their grade. Students are assigned to the Intermediate or Advanced class based on prior experience. Fee (Year)

Advanced Chorus - Students will learn a variety of choral music, as well as some choreographed dances. Students will be responsible for their participation grade including being engaged daily and attending all required performances. Assessments will be provided with written assignments in class to help students progress in reading and writing music, as well as sight reading for auditions and festival competitions. Fee (Year)

Guitar I - The first semester covers the basics of guitar including how to read music, tabs, chord charts, be introduced to music theory, and rehearse guitar ensemble music as a whole class. The second semester is project/performance-based and will include music theory application and songwriting techniques. Students will compose chord progressions, melodies, and begin covering and writing their own music. All students will be assigned a guitar and practicing outside of class is expected. Students must participate in the Winter and Summer Concerts. Fee (Year) Students must be responsible and respectful to the band room and music equipment.

Percussion I - This class focuses on the basics of how to drum, how to read rhythms and music, performing in groups/ensemble, and how to play the many percussion instruments. Students will progress through all percussion instruments in both the rhythmic and melodic instrumental families. Students will develop rhythmic accuracy, listening skills, practice warm-up routines and begin learning percussion ensemble music. This is a great introductory class for any students interested in drumming and percussion. This class coincides with Beginning Band. Fee (Year) Students must be responsible and respectful to the band room and music equipment.

Percussion II - This is a performance-based music class that focuses on percussion ensemble music. Students will continue to develop and their percussion technique while performing music written exclusively for percussion ensembles. This class prepares students to play in a large ensemble settings including concert band, marching band, and winter drumline groups. Students will have the opportunity to perform at school events, evening concerts, and other extra-curricular activities. Experienced percussionists are highly encouraged to participate in this ensemble. Fee (Year)

Physical Fitness - Team activities include badminton, archery, volleyball, etc., for 60% of the week. Individual fitness includes aerobic, muscle and bone building, and setting individual goals, will be 40% of the week. Students are expected to do fitness activities outside of class and record them on an activity log. There are alternative activities for those that are not able to participate. Uniforms are required. Uniform cost \$15 (Semester)

Art - This class may be taken multiple times for credit. Students may take this class both 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> semester, as the projects for the class are different each semester of the school year. Students will have an opportunity to work with ceramic sculpture and building techniques as well as focusing on drawing and painting skills. Part of the curriculum of the class is devoted to exploring the style of prominent artists as well as the art of different cultures. No previous art experience is necessary to take this course. Fee (Semester)

Music Theater - In Music Theater, students will learn basic theater concepts including building confidence and creating believability and stage presence all while developing their theatrical character for performance. Students will learn the basics of set and prop design, theater hair and makeup, costuming, staging and directing. This class will perform two musicals in the school year, one in the fall semester, and one in the spring semester. Fee (Year)

Odyssey of the Mind - This international educational elective provides an opportunity for students to exercise their creative problem-solving skills. Student teams select a specific problem to solve during the course of the class. Teams present their creative solutions through skits during competitions held in the spring. Problem-solving categories include balsa wood building, vehicle building, contraption building, dramatic skit writing, and comedy skit writing. Fee (Year) **Teacher approval required for this class. Class enrollment will be limited.**

Career Exploration (CTE) - Students take personality inventories and vocational interest assessments to identify personal strengths and interests, and explore how these test results are integral to long-term college and career planning. Students will have access to online vocational assessment programs and will develop a four-year high school educational plan and career portfolio to assist them in planning and meeting their goals. Students will also have access to the Life Skills classroom to explore cooking, sewing, and projects that will provide training for behaviors that will help students manage their personal lives both now and in the future. Fee (Semester)

Math Counts - This is a competition-based class for motivated math students. The objective of the course is to prepare students for the Math Counts local, state, and national competitions in an engaging math program. Students build math skills and character, and will be challenged on a regular basis. Fee (Year)

Beginning Technology - This is an introduction to computers and software systems. Students will learn the basics of typing, word processing and presentation programs. They will also learn some basic coding. The course objectives are for students to improve typing skills, build presentations, word process and digitally share documents in the cloud and to perform basic code. Fee (Semester)

Photography - This course will help students become familiar with the fundamentals of digital photography and technology. The areas of instruction that will be emphasized are: file management, keyboarding/presentation building, how cameras work, how composition works, and how to use photo editing software. Students will learn how to use features of the camera to have creative control; and will understand how to use editing software to improve the overall appearance of images. Fee (Year)

Computer Programming- This course is an introduction to different forms of coding. Students will utilize a variety of programs such as Code.org and scratch to learn how to make websites, create games and animations, and learn how to problem solve with the computer. Fee (Semester)

STEM - STEM stands for science, technology, engineering, and math. STEM education integrates concepts that are usually taught as separate subjects and emphasizes the application of these four disciplines to a real-world scientific or engineering problem. STEM lessons focus on hands-on, project-based learning. One semester will focus on design and modeling while the second semester will emphasize automation and robotics. Fee (Year)

Engineering and Robotics - This class is designed to give students an introduction to the engineering design process. Through hands on activities in the first semester, students will learn how to plan, test, refine, and produce different products to meet certain problems. They will also work to understand several different kinds of engineering. In the second semester, students will learn all about robotics by participating in the underwater robotics program along with vex robotics to build and program robots, and then use them to complete missions. All activities will incorporate drawing and/or word processing. Fee (Year)

Conversational Spanish- This class is for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders and is for the entire academic year. This class is a prerequisite to Spanish 1 for high school credit. First priority will be given to students with A's and B's in their language arts classes. The Spanish language will be taught through speaking, listening, reading, and writing in an environment of Spanish immersion. Students will develop a solid base in the language and will be well prepared for high school credit Spanish 1. Students must get a C or higher each quarter in order to be eligible to take Spanish 1 the following year in middle school. (Year)

Spanish I (High School Credit) - This class is for 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> graders who have completed Conversational Spanish with a C or higher. It is for the entire school year. This class counts as part of a student's high school G.P.A. and will be on the official high school transcript. The Spanish language will be taught through speaking, listening, reading, and writing in an environment of Spanish immersion. This class provides a wonderful base in the language and prepares students well for high school credit Spanish 2. Students with a C or higher in this class will be eligible for Spanish 2. (Year) **Teacher approval required for this class.**

Spanish II (High School Credit) - This year long Spanish course is for 8<sup>th</sup> graders only. It counts as year two of the required high school foreign language credits needed for entry into college. The Spanish language will be taught through speaking, listening, reading, and writing in an environment of Spanish immersion. By taking this course in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and completing it with a C or higher every quarter, students will be placed in Spanish 3 as a freshman. This class counts as part of a student's high school G.P.A. and will go on the official high school transcript. The prerequisite is 7<sup>th</sup> grade Conversational Spanish with a C or higher and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Spanish I with a C or higher. (Year) **Teacher approval required for this class.**

Study Skills - This course provides instruction and practice in mastering skills needed for academic success. Students will learn to set goals, monitor their own progress, and celebrate success. Students will receive instruction in note taking, organizational skills, test taking strategies, and tips for writing papers and giving presentations. The small group setting offers students significant teacher support and the opportunity to collaborate and build relationships with "study buddies." (Year) **Students are placed in study skills based on past academic history and teacher recommendation. Class enrollment will be limited.**