8th Grade

Holmes Middle School

We dare to empower the whole child to profoundly impact our world

COURSE SELECTIONS MUST BE MADE USING THE ONLINE FORM BY MARCH 4th

We appreciate you choosing Holmes for your student’s educational needs. The course selection process is used to help guide the classes that will be offered in the coming year.

Holmes Middle School Course Selection Process:

- The Guardian and Student should review the courses that are listed and determine which classes are a good fit for the student.
- The Guardian will be sent a link in their email for a form where you and your student will enter the student’s course selections. This form can also be found on the Holmes Counseling web page.
  - Please contact Vanessa Steed (vanessa.steed@d11.org; 718-328-3812) If you need help accessing the form
- Course Selections MUST be entered by Friday March 4th, in order for your student’s preferences to be considered when determining Exploratory schedules.
- Course selections received after that date will be placed on hold until the other students have been scheduled.

Should you have any concerns or questions about classes and course selection please reach out to your student’s counselor. Mrs. Mikayla Hickman (mikayla.hickman@d11.org).

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 2022-2023 – 8th Grade

REQUIRED CORE COURSES

Advanced class placement will be determined by a body of evidence to include: parent and student request, standardized assessment data, teacher recommendations, and possible placement exams. Advanced math equates to accelerating one or more grade levels. Advanced Language Arts is taught at a quicker pace and with higher level expectations and rigor associated with assignments and assessments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Course</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language Arts</td>
<td>Pre-AP Language Arts 1&amp;2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math 8 – Pre Algebra</td>
<td>Adv. Math - Algebra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Adv. Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History – American Studies</td>
<td>Adv. American Studies</td>
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EXPLORATORY COURSES

Exploratory course scheduling is based on interest. By choosing and ranking your classes we have the opportunity to build a schedule that best meets the students’ interests. Because we work to meet those interests, there is also an expectation that those are the classes that you are committing to. Please be aware that specific exploratory classes will not be scheduled if requested numbers do not reach a minimum class size, or available teaching staff does not allow for a class.

FULL YEAR ELECTIVES:

Students commit to completing the entire year when selecting a yearlong course. Concert Band, Orchestra and Choir are all taught during the same period so the student will need to pick just one.

**Symphonic Band**
Symphonic band provides the opportunity to develop an understanding & appreciation of music through performance. This band performs for school & community events throughout the year & may participate in the state music contest. Students are required to participate in all scheduled performances as part of the requirements for the course.

**Jazz Band - Requires Audition**
Only those students who demonstrate an advanced level of performance proficiency will be considered for inclusion in this band. Instrumentation includes saxophone, trumpet, trombone, piano, bass, electric guitar & drum set. Jazz band performs at festivals, assemblies, concerts & community events. Students are required to participate in all scheduled performances as part of the requirements for the course. **PREREQUISITE:** Students are required to take 1 Semester of Symphonic Band

**Chamber Orchestra 7-8**
Chamber orchestra provides the opportunity to develop an understanding and appreciation of music through performance.
This orchestra performs for school and community events throughout the year and may participate in state music festivals and contests. Practice of 30 minutes per day is expected for every orchestra member. Students are required to participate in all scheduled concerts and performing events.

**Choir 7-8**

Students learn/reinforce the fundamentals of good choral singing, as well as elements of theory, ear training, sight-reading, and musical terminology. Students will develop an appreciation for the art of excellence in vocal production, both in rehearsal and performance settings. There is a concert held towards the end of each academic quarter to demonstrate skills learned.

**SEMESTER ELECTIVE CLASSES**

You will be asked to rank the classes 1 – 5; 1 Being the class you want the most and 5 being the class you want the least.

**Physical Education – MOST STUDENTS WILL HAVE THIS CLASS**

The purpose of our P.E. program is to increase student’s physical competence; health related fitness, self-esteem, & enjoyment of physical activity so they can be physically active for a lifetime. Activities include learning new fitness concepts, resistance training, fitness testing, team & individual sports. Uniforms can be purchased if student does not have one from the previous year.

**Advanced Family & Consumer Sciences = FCS (Home Ec)**

This course includes the following areas of study: personality traits and aptitudes to assist with career pathways, nutrition & wellness, food preparation, meal management, consumerism, sewing & fabric care, childcare, building positive relationships and communication skills (Interpersonal skills). Technology will be integrated into the course through a teen topic unit and an international cooking unit. Problem solving and application of academic skills will be emphasized. Students will be asked to furnish some supplies.

**Expanding the Visual Arts**

This course is designed to provide the student with continuing techniques & processes in art production. Students will create two- and three-dimensional artwork from the areas of painting, drawing, printmaking, ceramics, sculpture, mixed media, or other vehicles of expression. The cultural and appreciative aspects of art will be incorporated through art criticism, art history, and aesthetics.

**PLTW (Project Lead The Way) Green Architecture (Wood Shop)**

This course will be a Hybrid PLTW class and Woodshop. The first part of the semester students will have a STEM unit of study. The focus of this unit is the practice of architecture and sustainable development. Students explore residential building systems, residential construction and construction costs, site planning, and architectural documentation. They design a tiny house or small home using recycled shipping containers and use fundamental features of 3D architectural software to document their design. The second part of the semester students will learn skills from Careers in Construction Colorado/Home Builders Institute Curriculum, and apply those skills in building and design in the Holmes Woodshop.

**PLTW Automation Robotics (Computer Tech)**

Students trace the history, development, & influence of automation & robotics. They learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation & computer control system. Students use a robust robotics platform to design, build & program real word solutions to solve an existing problem students will learn that programming goes beyond the virtual world into the physical world. Students are challenged to creatively use sensors & actuators to develop systems that interact with their environment. Designing algorithms & using computational thinking practices, they code and upload programs to microcontrollers that perform a variety of authentic tasks.

**Foundations of Design 1**

Students will learn the basics of graphic design, using vector artwork, images and typography to convey information. Students explore the capabilities of design programs through basic tutorials and then build on their skills to create original logos, cartoon characters, and use typography/text to create portraits, and posters. If time allows in the semester, students will learn the screen-printing process to create posters and t-shirts.

**Foundations of Design 2** – Foundations of Design 1 is a required course.