

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 January 23rd.

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.

- The Guardian and Student need to review the course listing and select classes that are of interest.
- The Guardian will be emailed the course selection link that needs to be filled out to record student/guardian preferences. This form can also be found on the Holmes Counseling web page.
 - Please contact Laura Kelley (laura.kelley@d11.org); 718-328-3812) for help accessing the form.
- Course Selections **MUST** be entered by Monday January 23rd, in order for your student's preferences to be considered when determining Exploratory schedules.

Should you have any concerns or questions about classes and course selection please contact your student's counselor. Mrs. Tara Falslev (tara.falslev@d11.org)

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 2023-2024 – 8TH GRADE

REQUIRED CORE COURSES

Advanced class placement will be determined by a body of evidence to include: parent, 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.

Language Arts

Math 8 – Pre Algebra
Science

Pre-AP Language Arts 1&2

Adv. Math - Algebra
History – American Studies

Double Adv.- Geometry

ELECTIVE COURSES

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.

Concert Band 7/8 Grade

Concert band provides the opportunity to develop an understanding & appreciation of music through performance. This band performs for school & community events throughout the year & may also participate in the state music contest. Students are required to participate in all scheduled performances as part of the requirements for the course. Student must know how to read music.

Jazz Band – 8th Grade only - 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 I Semester of Concert Band.

Intermediate Orchestra 7-8

Intermediate 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.

Intermediate Choir 7-8

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

SEMESTER ELECTIVE CLASSES (2 Quarters)

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 8 1– 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 A - 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 1

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 world 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.

Consumer Awareness A: 7/8 Grade

This course is designed to acquaint students with consumer skills. The basics of personal finance are introduced and include saving, budgeting, inflation, taxes and investing. The virtual investing in the Stock Market experience allows students to research and make investing decisions. This is a team-based project that students compete in at the state level. After learning how big business operates, we take it down to the small business perspective. Students learn how to run their own business. The capstone project is a student-led Entrepreneur Fair. All enrolled must participate in this Project and create an item to sell at Holmes.

GTT Intro to Comp Science 2 7/8 Grade

Students will continue the fundamentals of programming code using introductory concepts in Python. We utilize the OZARIA program. The program is self-paced, yet structured with assignment deadlines. Further exploration in Scratch and Code.org will be used to strengthen their coding knowledge. Using Sphero robotics helps students to apply what they have learned. Sphero has a semester competition that students may participate in. Everyday examples and clear explanations are used, so students with no prior programming experience can have success.

Foundations of Design 1 7/8 Grade

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.

Spanish 1

This class is taught at Coronado in the mornings from 7:30 – 8:15, Tuesday – Friday. Guardians will need to work out transportation to the class. Students walk over from Coronado to Holmes in a group at the completion of the class. This is an additional class and will be awarded High School Credits.