

South Charlotte Middle School
8th Grade Elective Course Offerings & Descriptions 2024-25

Yearlong Courses – 36 weeks (every other day)

- **Band 8th (woodwinds, brass, percussion):** This course is a continuation of the Band 7 experience with opportunities to expand to larger instruments. Students must have successfully completed Band 7 and obtain permission from Carl Ratliff (Band instructor). [Band Video](#)
- **Orchestra 8th:** Students will have an opportunity to explore many styles and periods of literature for string instruments. There are two sections for this course, beginner and advanced - students will be grouped together by the teacher based on experience. We accept all students who are willing to work hard, practice, and meet the expectations for becoming an excellent musician. [Orchestra Video](#)
- **Spanish 1 Part B** (Spanish 1 Part A is a required prerequisite): This course is the second half of a High School credit course. The first half must have been completed in 7th grade. The final grade will be visible on the high school transcript. The course consists of entry level speaking, reading, writing, and listening skills. [Spanish Video](#)

Semester Courses – 18 weeks (every other day)

- **Exploring Business Procedures and Leadership:** is a CTE course that researches and explores appropriate US and International business etiquette, business communication, and business ethics. In addition, students will explore requirements for seeking, gaining, and maintaining employment. Students will complete job applications, create and type resumes, create and type cover letters to go with the resumes, and practice interviewing skills.
- **Computer Science I:** is a CTE introductory course that takes a wide lens on computer science by covering topics such as problem solving, programming, physical computing, user-centered design, and data, while inspiring students as they build their own websites, apps, games, and physical computing devices. Students in CSD 1 learn the basic computer coding and programming language.
- **PLTW (Project Lead The Way) Gateway: Automation and Robotics** is an introduction to engineering class. This course supports students in tracing the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Students use the VEX Robotics® platform to design, build, and program real-world objects such as windmills, pull toys, and robotic arms. [Automation and Robotics Video](#)
- **PLTW (Project Lead The Way) Gateway: Green Architecture.** In this class students learn how to apply green concepts to the fields of architecture and construction. They

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explore dimensioning, measuring, and architectural sustainability and apply what they have learned to design affordable housing units using Autodesk's® 3D architectural design software.

- **Drama 8th:** Students will explore many aspects of the theater including acting, directing, playwriting, pantomime, audience etiquette, musical theater, costuming and set design. Students learn to use drama as a means of expressing themselves and developing their “personal voice” as they work both individually and collaboratively to create performances.
- **Dance 8th:** This course provides beginning instruction in dance as personal expression. Students learn to create compositions, learn performance values, use movement skills, analyze dance, and understand cultural, historical, and interdisciplinary connections with dance.
- **Art 8th:** builds upon students’ individual skills in visual arts. The focus is on applying elements and principles of design to interpret the environment, to elaborate on an idea, and to use as a means of communication. Students use creative and critical thinking skills as they study the purpose and function of art, the history of art, and the impact of art in cultures.
- **Chorus 8th:** students learn beginning singing techniques within an ensemble setting. In addition to music skills, students will demonstrate skills of cooperation, and learn to compromise and be team players.
- **Beginning Acoustic Guitar I:** This course provides beginning class instructions in playing acoustic guitar. Level 1 performance standards for guitar are achieved. Guitars maybe borrowed from the school, leased or purchased from local music dealers.