

South Charlotte Middle School
8th Grade Elective Course Offerings & Descriptions 2020-2021

Yearlong Courses – 36 weeks (every other day)

- **Band 8 (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).
- **Orchestra 8** Students will have an opportunity to explore many styles and periods of literature for string instruments. This course is a continuation of the Orchestra 7 experience. Students must have successfully completed Orchestra 7 and obtain permission from Ryan Namkoong (Orchestra instructor).
- **Spanish 1 Part B:** 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 high school transcript. The course consists of entry level speaking, reading, writing, and listening skills.
- **Chorus** students learn advanced 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. Participation requires permission from Brantley Barnhill (Choral instructor).

Semester Courses – 18 weeks (every other day)

- **Keyboarding and Basic Word Processing** is a CTE course which teaches students basic keying (alpha and numeric), building speed and accuracy, and basic business correspondences.
- **Office Productivity 2** is a CTE course which includes Excel and Databases.
- **Exploring Business Procedures and Leadership** is a CTE course which researches and explores appropriate US and International business etiquette, communication, and ethics. In addition students will explore requirements for seeking, gaining, and maintaining employment.
- **Project Lead the Way: Medical Detectives** iStudents play a role of real-life medical detectives. As they analyze genetic testing results to diagnose and study DNA evidence found at a “crime scene.” They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs. Students investigate how to measure and interpret vital signs, and learn how these systems of the human body work together to maintain health.
- **Project Lead the Way: 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.
- **Project Lead the Way: Green Architecture** In this unit, students learn how to apply green concepts to the fields of architecture and construction. They 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** This course explores theater arts through the use of creative dramatics, diction, vocal expression, improvisation, dramatization, technical theater, audience etiquette, and theater appreciation. Part of the diction study will include introduction of people/speakers, campaign speeches for school officers, and announcements for the intercom.
- **Dance** 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.

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- **Art** 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** 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.