



2023-2024 Elective Course Descriptions

Elective courses available at San Marcos Middle School for the 2023-2024 school year, are listed below. Some elective choices require teacher approval and/or interviews. Please review and discuss these courses with your parent(s), you will be able to prioritize by first, second, and third choices. These choices will be taken into consideration.

***All courses are subject to change and/or elimination, based upon the needs of the Master Schedule. ***

6th grade:

Beginning Band No prior music experience necessary. Students learn a Woodwind instrument (flute, clarinet, alto saxophone), Brass instrument (trumpet, trombone, French horn), and/or percussion instrument (bells). This elective teaches students how to read and perform music in an ensemble environment, goal setting and participation in several field trips. Daily/weekly practice is required for success.

Innovation Elective Wheel - students will be exposed to a variety of classes that will support the 4Cs of 21st century learning- creativity, communication, critical thinking, and collaborative skills. These elective classes will be taught throughout their 6th grade year on a quarterly basis.

7th & 8th grade:

ASB/Leadership— Requires Teacher Approval. The Associated Student Body (A.S.B.) class is designed for those students who wish to develop their leadership skills. Students will be involved in planning, organizing, and leading activities designed to encourage school spirit and academic success. Leadership instruction will educate students on how to be influential, inclusive, and support their peers as positive role models. **Application and Interview is Required.** [ASB Application](#)



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AVID - Requires Teacher Approval. Advancement Via Individual Determination is an academic elective that prepares students for success in high school and college. The curriculum focuses on building skills and developing behaviors that lead to success. For example: critical thinking, note-taking, organization, collaboration, reading, and writing. For more information, please visit the SMMS AVID GoogleSite:

<https://sites.google.com/smusd.org/smmsavidsite/home> Acceptance is based on a combination of teacher recommendation, grades, and motivation. **Application Required**
[AVID Application](#)

Agricultural Science - an elective class involving understanding the world around us and how agriculture benefits all people and cultures. Students will engage in team-building activities and experience personal growth through gaining public speaking skills and also learning how to garden. Students will be responsible for caring for plant life and cultivating the soil, as well as learning about animal science through anatomy, animal processing procedures, and animal byproducts

Beginning Band No prior music experience necessary. Students learn a Woodwind instrument (flute, clarinet, alto saxophone), Brass instrument (trumpet, trombone, French horn), and/or percussion instrument (bells). This elective teaches students how to read and perform music in an ensemble environment, goal setting and participation in several field trips. Daily/weekly practice is required for success.

Intermediate Band -Requires Band Teacher Approval and at least one year of playing your instrument. Intermediate Band is an elective that prepares students for advanced band. Students build on prior years of music techniques. Students participate in large group ensemble performance, developing sight-reading abilities, individual technical development, goal setting and participation in several field trips. Daily/weekly practice is required for success.

Social Entrepreneurship - Students collaborate on service-learning projects which lead to the development of student-run businesses for social change. This program builds leadership skills, initiative and strengthens student relationships with their peers. It provides them with the tools to make an impact on humanity. Students build self-efficacy as they use empathy and awareness as a foundation to address the needs of the school and community.

Film/TV Production - Now's your chance to make movies and YouTube/Instagram videos like the ones you've watched over the years. In this class students will learn how to Write,



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Direct, and Produce film projects. Students will master the editing process with Adobe Premiere Pro. Students will learn how to manipulate lighting, sound, and camera techniques. Students will develop acting and public speaking skills, voice over skills. Students will produce the broadcast news for Crusader TV..

Graphic Arts/Yearbook - Do you love photography? Are you interested in mastering your skills as a digital artist? Do you want to be on the yearbook staff? In this class students will learn the principles of graphic arts and design and photography using professional cameras, graphing tablets, and professional software including Adobe Photoshop. Students will produce the school yearbook and submit projects for local and national competitions. This course explores the elements of art, principles of design, and photographic composition. This course also explores lighting techniques, digital image manipulation, and career skills. Students will learn to analyze visual media critically and to communicate with intention through their photographs. Students will demonstrate a complete understanding of ethics and copyright law as it pertains to their work in a digital environment.

Studio Art– Students will learn techniques in drawing, painting, printmaking, metal tooling, and sculpture using a wide variety of media. The course covers artistic and human development from Primitive times up through the Modern Art of the 20th Century.

Spanish I* Requires Teacher Approval.** Equivalent to the high school course. Students receive an introduction to the language, culture, geography, and lifestyles of people throughout the Spanish-speaking world. Emphasis on listening, speaking, reading and writing skills provide the foundation for Spanish II.

Spanish for Spanish Speakers*** Requires Teacher Approval. This is a high school course. Students who already have a background speaking Spanish at home will develop listening, speaking, reading and writing skills in their native language. This course provides a more formal command of the native language, a higher level of proficiency in communication, and an appreciation of the Hispanic cultures and social heritage.

Technology (Introduction to Computer Science and Engineering)

Want to learn how to code? Build your own apps? Work with electronics? Build Robots? This course is where you will learn all of that and more. This course is open to 7th and 8th grade students. Students will learn coding, build apps, the engineering design process, 3D design, and robotics.

Yoga (year long course) In this course, you will explore the practices of yoga and mindfulness. Through a combination of physical postures, breathwork, and mindfulness



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practices, you will learn to strengthen your body and calm your mind. The physical practice of yoga will include a variety of poses, including standing, balancing, seated, and supine postures, with modifications offered for all abilities. Through these movements, you will develop strength, flexibility, and body awareness, while also learning to release tension and stress. In addition to the physical practice, the course will also include mindfulness exercises, allowing you to explore different techniques for quieting the mind and connecting with the present moment. Through these practices, you will develop greater self-awareness and cultivate a sense of inner peace.

Jazz Band - Jazz Band is a before-school ensemble (zero period) class made up of seventh and eighth grade band students. Jazz band instrumentation is the key to the success of this ensemble: alto saxophones, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, trumpet, trombone, electric bass, piano and drum set. Auditions will be held within the first two weeks of school. Instruction will focus on jazz band techniques, such as; style, blend, improvisation, rhythmic accuracy and advanced technical facility. Students are required to participate in all assigned performances to receive full credit. *Any participating student will be DROPPED from Jazz Band for excessive tardies and or absences.* This group performs at school events and rated music festivals. Summer Jazz camp will be provided to help students develop their musical skills, technique and confidence in participating in this ensemble.

8th grade Only:

Advanced Art: *Requires completion of 7th grade Studio Art and name posted on the Advanced Studio Art List.* Students will work at an accelerated level and pace as they learn advanced techniques in drawing, painting, printmaking, and sculpture using a wide variety of media. The course covers artistic and human development from the Renaissance up through the Modern Art of the 20th Century. Students are required to keep a journal recording each project, concepts taught, and personal reflections.

Advanced Band - Requires Band Teacher Approval and one to two years of band experience. Advance Band is an elective that prepares students for high school and the possibility of participation in marching band activities in the future. Students participate in large group ensemble, sight-reading abilities, individual technical development, goal setting and participation in several performances and field trips. Daily/weekly practice is required for success.