



2021-2022 Elective Course Descriptions

Elective courses available at San Marcos Middle School for the 2021-2022 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:

Exploration - (1 full year) Students explore the areas of art, technology, academic growth and personal development.

Beginning Band (1 full year) 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.

7th & 8th grade:

ASB/Leadership— (1 full year) 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 Required

AVID - (1 full year) Requires Teacher Approval. Advancement Via Individual Determination is an elective that prepares students for high school and college. Students participate in study groups, team building activities, field trips, and goal setting. Acceptance is based on a combination of teacher recommendation, test scores, grades, and motivation. Application Required

Yearbook/Graphic Arts- (1 full year) Requires Teacher Approval. Students will learn the principles of graphic arts and design in this project based course. Students will produce the yearbook and submit projects to local and national competitions. 7th grade students are not common but are eligible. Those interested are encouraged to apply!

Studio Art— (1 full year) In Studio Art students draw, paint, do printmaking, 3-dimensional designs, and work with metal tooling. Art History from Primitive times to the 20th century is emphasized.

Technology (1 full year) Students learn an introduction to Microsoft office applications, word processing spreadsheets, presentation software, desktop publishing software, introduction to graphic art and design and digital photography. Students gain a working knowledge of internet applications, storage and security procedures. *Does not require any teacher approval.



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Intermediate Band (1 full year)-Requires Band Teacher Approval and at least one year of playing your instrument. Intermediate Band is an elective that prepares students for advance 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.

Photography (1 full year) An introduction to digital photography using digital cameras and basic image editing software. 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.

Advanced Band (1 full year) 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.

Spanish I*** (1 full year) Requires Teacher Approval. Equivalent to 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. **8th grade only**

Spanish for Spanish Speakers*** (1 full year) Requires Teacher Approval. Equivalent to 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. **8th grade only**

*** **Appropriate score on placement test or a C or better in Language Arts**