

OAK MIDDLE SCHOOL

7th and 8th GRADE ELECTIVE DESCRIPTIONS

All Electives are Year Long Courses



- ART** Students enrolled in this course will be introduced to the basic elements and principles of art through guided explorations in two and three dimensional design. Students will have the opportunity to create art with graphite, pen and ink, charcoal, tempera, clay, paper mache, and mixed media. This course will also provide opportunities for the student to learn through the discussions and explorations that emphasize visual criticism, art history and art philosophy, as well as art production.
- ADVANCED ART** Advanced Art is for the serious artist who has taken Beginning Art or who has prior art instruction and a skill set that would allow the student to be successful on more advanced projects. Projects will include drawing and painting, working with pen and ink, pastels, charcoal, and other mediums. Students will draw portraits and landscapes, create collages and create work to represent social or environmental concerns, work with different textiles and different medium, and experience more advanced styles and genres in art. **This course requires an application as well as a submission of an original piece of artwork for consideration - available in the main office*
- DRAMA** This class is designed to create appreciation for live theatre and video through increasing student's performing skills. Students will create original material and use non-original material to expand their skills in pantomime, role-play, dramatic performance, public speaking, improvisation and play writing. Production work will explore live production and video production. Students will also study relevant periods of theatre.
- ADVANCED DRAMA** This cutting-edge conservatory structured course is offered to 7th and 8th grade students who demonstrate advanced drama skills, are motivated to improve and develop their performance techniques for the stage, and demonstrate excellent work habits. Students are expected to audition for this course and to have completed one beginning or wheel course. Once accepted, students will participate in all aspects of production; acting, stage crew, marketing, competing, and directing. Honors Dramatic Arts utilizes improv games, movement, vocal techniques, scene study, and monologues to develop their craft. These students will serve as mentors to those with lesser developed skills to encourage growth and strengthen the program. **This course requires an application and audition – available in the main office.*
- JOURNALISM** This elective incorporates Speech and Debate skills with Journalism! Are you interested in what's going on in the world both inside and outside of Oak? Do you have an interest in media and current events? Want to be a confident, persuasive speaker and writer? In this class you will be a reporter for the Lion's Den covering Oak's events and current affairs. You will also learn how to debate and hone your public speaking techniques. This will be a highly engaging class for students who care about the world around them. **This course requires excellent citizenship, work habits, and attendance.*
- LEADERSHIP** Leadership is a 7th/8th grade elective class that serves as our Oak Associated Student Body (ASB). Our objective is to create a positive school climate through service projects and on-campus activities that support our students and our community. This class focuses on leadership development, with an emphasis on planning strategies, decision-making skills, problem solving, organizational skills, principles of communication and collaboration, financial management, and public relations. **This course requires an application and occasional before/after school time commitment – available in the main office.*

OFFICE AIDE

(8th Grade Only) Aides will help office staff with tasks which include organizing, filing, and making deliveries. All aides will need to be self-motivated, cooperative, and responsible when working with office staff and parents and when working independently. **To be eligible for this course, students must have excellent citizenship, work habits, and attendance.*

STEM II

(Engineering
Design)

This class will introduce students to Stanford Design Thinking, 3D design, 3D printing, sketching, engineering principles, laser cutting, robotics, “making”, audio and visual editing, and product design in our incredible school Makerspace dubbed “Design 38.” Students will have the opportunity to learn physical computing using a microcontroller, such as an Arduino, for a culminating project to make a prototype of a real product or invention to compete in the ocMaker Challenge competition. Students will use industry standard tools and software to build their prototypes such as 3D printers, a laser cutter, robotics equipment, and Autodesk 3D design software. We will use the VEX Robotics platform to build and program various robots for use in our robotics arena. This class introduces the wide variety of possibilities that a career in Engineering can provide in a growing and high paying career field. Class time is split between practicing computer language on a computer, designing, and working collaboratively to solve problems in creative ways. Engineering Design will primarily focus on the “hands-on” engineering and design of HARDWARE and prepare students for the Engineering Pathway at Los Alamitos High School.

STEM III

(Gaming &
Coding)

Students will learn basic programming in JavaScript, the most widely used programming language in the world, using Code.org. Students eager to create and playtest games, as well as, build interactive content will learn the game design process to build a finished game by the end of the school year. Students will take their game idea from “concept to creation” by learning the key steps in the production journey. This will include concept development, pre-production planning, programming a prototype, creating the artwork, and developing a game. Since we learn the fundamentals of graphic design early on in the school year, students will feel confident in developing the artwork for their game, as well as, learn a visual form of communication to create digital and print media. This class also shows students the possibilities of a career in Computer Science and the wide variety of career options available to them. Class time is split between practicing computer language on a computer, designing, and working collaboratively to solve problems in creative ways. Students will also learn physical computing of a hardware microcontroller called a Circuit Playground Express or Raspberry Pi. This class will primarily focus on the engineering and design of SOFTWARE for digital media and will prepare students for the Computer Science Pathway at Los Alamitos High School.

YEARBOOK

This class will allow students to create the Oak yearbook through the use of technology including: computers, the internet, and digital cameras. Students will be expected to learn and participate in the design, photography, interviewing and writing skills necessary to create the Oak yearbook. Students must have excellent Citizenship, Attendance, and Work Habits as well as a minimum GPA of 3.0. **This course requires an application – available in the Main Office and in Room 35.*

WORLD LANGUAGE COURSES



Students choosing to begin World Language classes during middle school need to be aware of the following:

- *Spanish I* is offered at Oak Middle School and has a minimum GPA requirement of 3.5
- Levels of language taken in 7th and 8th grade **do not** count toward High School Graduation but will serve as recommendation for placement in 9th grade.
- 7th grade students who choose to take Spanish I Honors must be able to attend Spanish II Honors zero period at LAHS in 8th grade.
- To be eligible for Spanish II Honors, students must earn a “B+” or better in Spanish I Honors.
- Students beginning world language at the middle school level are committing to 4 years of language in high school with completing a world language AP course as the goal.
- A World Language is not required to graduate from high school, but can satisfy the Fine Arts requirement of 10 credits or 2 semesters.
- The UC/CSU college entrance requirement is 2 years of the same world language with three years being strongly recommended. These classes must be on your student’s **High School** transcript.

SPANISH I HONORS

This is a fast paced Spanish language course in which students are expected to master the basic skills of reading, writing, listening, and speaking in preparation for Spanish II Honors. It is equivalent to Spanish I at Los Alamitos High School and requires a significant commitment of time and effort. Students must have excellent attendance and work habits as well as a minimum GPA of 3.5. To be eligible for Spanish II Honors, students must earn a “B+” or better in the course. Please note that 7th grade students who choose to take Spanish I Honors must be able to attend Spanish II Honors zero period at LAHS in 8th grade.

THE FOLLOWING CLASSES ARE TAUGHT AT LOS ALAMITOS HIGH SCHOOL

These courses are offered as a zero period on the Los Alamitos High School campus. Students are responsible for their own transportation to the high school. A bus will transport the students back to Oak before 2nd period.

SPANISH II HONORS

Spanish II continues to build proficiency through TPRS (Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling), with increased opportunity for storytelling and developing more advanced language skills. Students will continue to develop speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. The course also emphasizes an increased focus on reading and writing through mini-novels and writing projects as well as cultural components.

FRENCH I

Students will develop basic skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in this introductory language course. Students will become acquainted with the French sound system and will acquire a basic living vocabulary to enable them to function effectively in everyday life situations. Cultural features are integrated throughout the materials and meaningful communication will be stressed. **Students must have excellent attendance and work habits as well as a minimum GPA of 3.5.*

FRENCH II HONORS

(8th Grade only) French II continues to build proficiency through TPRS, with increased opportunity for storytelling and developing more advanced language skills. Students will continue to develop speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. The course also emphasizes an increased focus on reading and writing through mini-novels, legends, and writing projects as well as cultural components.

JAPANESE I

(8th Grade only) The purpose of Japanese I is to give students the ability to function real-life situations that they may encounter in a Japanese-speaking environment. Students will learn to talk about themselves, their families, and their friends. They will learn the appropriate language to use in a variety of social interactions. Students will be exposed to the culture of Japanese peoples, including geography, history, traditions, and daily life through multimedia, class discussions, and readings. The writing system will be introduced. Students will become acquainted with the sound system of Japanese and will acquire a basic living vocabulary. **Students must have excellent attendance and work habits as well as a minimum GPA of 3.5.*

VOCAL MUSIC OPTIONS

Contact Mr. O'Connell at voconnell@losal.org

ALL VOCAL ELECTIVES ARE YEAR LONG COURSES



SHOW MEN 6th & 7th Grade Beginning Men's Choir

- No audition required.
- This group will be expected to develop their ability to read music and learn how to create a quality vocal tone ("standing & singing" or dancing).
- Sing and dance many different styles of music.
- Perform at the Fall Concert, Winter Concert, District Choral Festival, Open House, Spring Concert, Knott's Berry Farm, and a "stand and sing" choral festival. This list is not final or exhaustive.
- With the teacher's approval, students will need to miss some school days in order to perform or practice for some of these events. Grades must be kept at a C or above.
- There will be a handful of required out-of-school rehearsals (lasting 2-3 hours) and 1 mandatory 4 hour 'competition' choreography rehearsal out-of-school in order to prepare for the performances.

SHOW TIME Beginning Treble Choir – 6th grade girls

- No audition required.
- This group will be expected to develop their ability to read music and learn how to create a quality vocal tone ("standing & singing" or dancing).
- Sing and dance many different styles of music.
- Perform at the Fall Concert, Winter Concert, Disneyland (pending audition), District Choral Festival, Open House, Spring Concert, Knott's Berry Farm, and a "stand and sing" choral festival. This list is not final or exhaustive.
- With the teacher's approval, students will need to miss some school days in order to perform or practice for some of these events. Grades must be kept at a C or above.
- There will be a handful of required out-of-school rehearsals (lasting 2-3 hours) and 1 mandatory 4 hour 'competition' choreography rehearsal out-of-school in order to prepare for the performances.

SHOW STARS 7th & 8th grade girls – Advanced Treble Choir

- This group will be expected to develop and continue to grow in their ability to read more difficult music, learning how to create a quality vocal tone while "standing & singing" or dancing.
- Sing and dance many different styles of music.
- Perform at the Fall Concert, Winter Concert, District Choral Festival, Open House, Spring Concert, Disneyland (pending audition), Knott's Berry Farm, and a "stand and sing" choral festival. This list is not final or exhaustive.
- With the teacher's approval, students will need to miss some school days in order to perform or practice for some of these events. Grades must be kept at a C or above.
- There will be a handful of required after school rehearsals (lasting 2-3 hours) and 1 mandatory 4 hour 'competition' choreography rehearsal after school in order to prepare for the performances.

SHOW STOPPERS 7th & 8th grade girls – Competition Treble Show Choir

- Audition required for any 7th or 8th grade girl desiring to be part of this choir.
- Prior show choir experience and a strong time commitment is required to be a part of this choir.
- Auditions will assess the individual's ability to perform, read music, vocal quality and dancing ability.
- This group will be expected to develop and continue to grow in their ability to read more difficult music, learning how to create a quality vocal tone while "standing & singing" or dancing.
- Sing and dance many different styles of music.
- Perform at a HIGH LEVEL of perfection at the Fall Concert, Winter Concert, District Choral Festival, Open House, Spring Concert, Disneyland (pending audition), Knott's Berry Farm, and a "stand and sing" choral festival. This list is not final or exhaustive.

- Show Stoppers will compete 2-4 times. Competitions are primarily on weekends. A significant level of time commitment is expected for members of this choir. Mandatory out-of-school competition choreography rehearsals (5-6, at four hours each) will be expected to take priority over other after school activities. There will be additional out-of-school rehearsals, lasting from 2-3 hours (dress rehearsals, etc).

SHOW CASE SINGERS 7th & 8th grade boys & girls – Advanced Concert Choir

- Audition required for any 7th or 8th grade student desiring to be part of this choir which meets during zero period.
- Prior choir experience and a strong level of commitment is required to be a part of this choir.
- Auditions will assess the individual's ability to perform, read music, vocal quality and dancing ability.
- This group will be expected to develop and continue to grow in their ability to read more difficult music, learning how to create a quality vocal tone and perform with musicality while “standing and singing”.
- Sing and dance many different styles of music.
- Perform at a HIGH LEVEL of perfection at the Fall Concert, Winter Concert, District Choral Festival, Open House, Spring Concert, Disneyland (pending audition), Knott's Berry Farm, weekend festival trip to a different city, and a “stand and sing” choral festival. This list is not final or exhaustive.
- With the teacher's approval, students will need to miss some school days in order to perform or practice for some of these events. Grades must be kept at a C or above.
- There will be a handful of required after school rehearsals (lasting 2-3 hours) and possibly 1 mandatory 4 hour ‘competition’ choreography rehearsal after school in order to prepare for the performances.
- Show Case will perform at many community functions and an overnight competition. A significant level of time commitment is expected for members of this choir. Mandatory out-of-school rehearsals will be expected to take priority over other after school activities.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Contact Mr. Harrell at mharrell@losal.org

ALL MUSIC ELECTIVES ARE YEAR LONG COURSES



BEGINNING BAND

Beginning Band is a one-year collaborative instrumental course where students learn a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument. Students will rehearse daily, which will culminate with performances at our school and at district concerts. As part of our commitment, participation in all performances is required.. No previous experience is necessary and the band is open to all students. Instruments are provided free of charge. Beginning Band will perform at the annual Winter and Spring Concerts and All-District Festival. In addition to these performances, Beginning Band takes a field trip to either the Grammy Museum or for a performance Knott's Berry Farm in the Spring.

INTERMEDIATE BAND

Intermediate Band is a one-year collaborative instrumental course where students develop their individual and ensemble techniques on a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument. Students will rehearse daily, which will culminate with performances at our school and at district concerts. As part of our commitment, participation in all performances is required. 1 to 2 years of experience on their instrument or the completion of Beginning Band is necessary for a student to be in Intermediate Band. The Intermediate Band will perform at the annual Winter and Spring Concerts and All-District Festival. In addition to these performances the Intermediate Band takes a field trip for a performance at Knott's Berry Farm in the Spring.

ADVANCED BAND

Advanced Band is a one-year collaborative instrumental course where students study advanced techniques and musicianship skills on a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument. Students will rehearse daily, which will culminate with performances at our school and at district concerts. As part of our commitment, participation in all performances is required. 2+ years of playing experience or the completion of Intermediate Band is required for a student to be in Advanced Band. The Oak Advanced Band is one of our most visible ensembles and performances include the annual Winter and Spring Concerts, the All-District performance, SCSBOA Concert Band Festival, and Veteran's Day Assembly. In addition to these performances, the Advanced Band takes a field trip to Disneyland in the Spring for a recording session workshop.

JAZZ BAND

Jazz Band is a one-year collaborative instrumental course that focuses on the performance of traditional jazz band literature as well as the practice of jazz improvisation. The Oak Jazz Band is one of our most visible ensembles, and performances include the annual Winter and Spring Concerts, the All-District performance, Southern California Jazz festivals, and various community performances. Each Spring the Oak Jazz Band will also take an overnight field trip to either the Monterey Next Generation Jazz Festival or the Reno Jazz Festival. Acceptance into the Oak Jazz Band is through auditions only. Auditions take place in the Spring prior to the new school year.

BEGINNING STRING ORCHESTRA

Beginning Orchestra is a one-year collaborative instrumental course where students learn violin, viola, cello, or bass. Students will rehearse daily, which will culminate with performances at our school and at district concerts. As part of our commitment, participation in all performances is required. No previous experience is necessary and the orchestra is open to all students. Instruments are provided free of charge. Beginning Orchestra will perform at the annual Winter and Spring Concerts and All-District performance. In addition to these performances, the Beginning Orchestra takes a field trip to either the Grammy Museum or for a performance at Knott's Berry Farm in the Spring.

ADVANCED STRING ORCHESTRA

Advanced Orchestra is a one-year collaborative instrumental course where students study advanced techniques and musicianship skills on violin, viola, cello, or bass. Students will rehearse daily, which will culminate with performances at our school and at district concerts. As part of our commitment, participation in all performances is required. 2+ years of playing experience or 1 year of prior Oak Orchestra experience is required for a student to be in Advanced Orchestra. The Oak Advanced Orchestra is one of our most visible ensembles and performances include the annual Winter and Spring Concerts, the All-District performance, SCSBOA Orchestra Festival, and Veteran's Day Assembly. In addition to these performances, the Advanced Orchestra takes a field trip to Disneyland in the Spring for a recording session workshop.