

# Gravelly Hill Middle School



## Elective Course Registration Guide 2020-2021

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Welcome to the Gravelly Hill Middle School Elective Course Guide for the 2020 - 2021 school year! Please use this course guide to assist you with registration. The guide provides information for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade electives.

Here is some important information to assist you:

- Year-long classes: Students will attend these classes from August to June.
- Semester classes: Students will attend these classes during one of the following time frames:
  - Semester 1 (S1) August through late January
  - Semester 2 (S2) Late January through June
- Students may select a combination of year-long and semester courses.
- Choosing a year-long course is not required.
- Administrative approval is required before a student can take 2 year-long courses
- All students are required to take the Health and Physical Education course
- Registration for selected courses is not guaranteed. Students may be placed in a remediation course based on EOG testing and other school data.

**The registration deadlines for the 2020-2021 school year are as follows:**

- 6th grade - Registration begins on **April 20th** and ends on **May 8th**
- 7th grade - Registration begins on **April 27th** and ends on **May 8th**
- 8th grade - Registration begins on **April 27th** and ends on **May 8th**
  - **NEW!** 7th and 8th grade registration will take place through powerschool.

If you have questions about registration please contact the following counselors:

- Rising 6th graders: Mrs. Nicole Richardson ( [nicole.richardson@orange.k12.nc.us](mailto:nicole.richardson@orange.k12.nc.us) )
- Rising 7th and 8th graders: Ms. Kim Degraffenried ( [kimberly.degraffenri@orange.k12.nc.us](mailto:kimberly.degraffenri@orange.k12.nc.us) )

## Rising 6th Grade Elective Course Descriptions

### Year -long Courses

#### Band

The band at Gravelly Hill has long been associated with performance excellence and having in it the best students at GHMS. As band students, we learn to play music together and perform at state contests, amusement parks, school sporting events, and events around our community! Being in band is an extremely rewarding, fun, and exciting experience that everyone should participate in!

In 6th grade, band students will be able to pick one of the four following instruments:

Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet, or Trombone . You will learn how to play these instruments and then have the opportunity to switch to other band instruments like Saxophone, Tuba, Baritone, or Percussion! Throughout your time in band in middle school, we will be able to take exciting trips and perform challenging music! The GHMS 6th grade band will have a concert in December and May. ***Please note that band students are required to obtain their own instrument. The instrument rental program at Music and Arts in Burlington is the easiest and recommended way to obtain an instrument. If it is impossible for you to obtain an instrument, please contact Mr. West at [Brandon.West@orange.k12.nc.us](mailto:Brandon.West@orange.k12.nc.us)***

#### AVID

Advancement Via Individual Determination, that is what AVID stands for. This program introduces 6th graders to lessons involving writing, reading, collaboration, inquiry and organization skills. These skills will work in any of your classes of Math, Science, Social Studies and English Language Arts. AVID provides students two days of tutorials per week with UNC students. Also we explore the world of college life by enriching your life with field trips.

### Semester Courses

#### Art

The 6th grade Art course builds on the Art foundations learned in elementary school. There is an emphasis on developing observational and technical skills to create realistic artworks with confidence and accuracy. Students will have time to delve more deeply into the technical processes of the media that we use. Students will engage in experiences that encompass art history, art appreciation, art criticism and art production.

#### Chorus

In 6th grade Chorus students learn the fundamentals of music including music history, how to read music, and how to sing. We will work on developing these skills in a fun and creative environment! There will be multiple opportunities to perform as an ensemble including a Winter Concert and a Spring Concert.

#### Fundamentals of Biotechnology

Biotechnology is a science elective based on biology (the study of life). Biotechnology uses living systems or organisms to make products like vaccines and antibiotics. In 6th grade we cover Introduction to Biotechnology and Biotechnology Careers! See you in class!

## **Keyboarding and Basic Word Processing**

This 6th grade elective course is composed of instructional modules designed to provide hands-on instruction in basic keyboarding skills, computer concepts and basic word processing documents.

## **Exploring Technological Systems**

This middle school course focuses on students' understanding how technological systems work together to solve problems and capture opportunities. As technology becomes more integrated and systems become dependent upon each other, this course gives students a general background on the different types of systems, with specific concentration on the connections between these systems.

## **Spanish**

In this course, students are introduced to the Spanish language and the products, practices, and perspectives of the Spanish-speaking world. At the end of the semester, students should be able to: understand individual words, answer basic questions, list/name/identify common things, and write/say a few things about themselves.

## **French**

This is an introduction to the French language! We learn the basics of communicating with french speakers around the world. We also do cultural activities that introduce students to the different places around the globe that use French as their languages. We will learn how to understand individual words, answer basic questions, identify common things, and write some sentences about themselves.

## **Required Course**

### **Health and Physical Education**

The Healthful Living Education course is designed to provide learning experiences that encourage the development of behaviors that promote a wellness oriented lifestyle and emphasize the choices and skills essential to a healthy life. This course is divided into two components: Physical Education and Health. Students will complete health lessons on a weekly basis, which will include the following topics: Drugs, Tobacco, Alcohol, Mental/Emotional Health, Nutrition and Reproductive Health while the rest of the course will be composed of physical education related activities. Students will be introduced to various individual/team activities. Skills, rules, strategies and sportsmanship will be covered in, but not limited to the following:  
Basketball, Badminton, Indoor/Outdoor Soccer, Volleyball, Slow-Pitch Softball, Fitness, Tag/Flag Football, Floor Hockey, Variety of PE Games, Team Handball, Ping Pong, Archery.

## **Rising 7th Grade Elective Course Descriptions**

### **Year -long Courses**

#### **Band**

This is a continuing class that requires 6th grade band as a prerequisite to join. 7th grade band students will continue learning about their instruments and begin working on more challenging music. 7th grade band students will begin to prepare for audition based events like all county and all district bands. Additionally, the seventh grade band

will begin preparing for MPA, our state contest. If you have any questions about 7th grade band, please reach out to Mr. West at: [Brandon.West@orange.k12.nc.us](mailto:Brandon.West@orange.k12.nc.us)

### **Chorus: Year -long**

In yearlong Chorus, students will continue improving their skills as singers and musicians. We will focus on vocal technique and music literacy. The Chorus will have multiple performance opportunities including a Winter Concert and a Spring Concert. Yearlong Chorus is the group that will participate in competitions/contests. Since this is a yearlong class, students are able to continue learning and polishing the skills and techniques that are developed throughout the year. You do not have to have taken Chorus in past years to sign up! Anyone is welcome.

### **AVID**

The AVID program stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination. This is a year long program. In 7th grade the program works with students on setting goals for their educational and personal lives. We concentrate on studying career paths and opportunities that are of the 21st century. Tutorial days are provided to help students reach their potential in Science, Math, Social Studies and Math classes. Field trips are planned to expand the student's knowledge of college and cultural life. Be a part of a team of students that know and understand that they want to be a GREAT individual.

## **Semester Courses**

### **Art**

The 7th grade Art student is expected to think critically, solve problems creatively, and produce exemplary works of art. This class builds on concepts learned during the 6th grade classes. The Elements and Principles of Art and Design will be an important aspect of all projects. Students will engage in experiences that encompass art history, art appreciation, art criticism and art production.

### **Chorus: Semester**

In semester -long Chorus, students will continue improving their skills as singers and musicians. We will focus on vocal technique and music literacy. The Chorus will have multiple performance opportunities including a Winter Concert and a Spring Concert.

### **Spanish** *(This is a required course for 8th grade year -long Spanish 1)*

Students may either continue their language learning journey or start it in 7th grade. Class rosters are organized around students beginning or continuing from 6th grade Spanish. We will work on all four language modes: Speaking, Listening, Writing, and Reading through making connections to the Spanish-speaking world. At the end of the semester, students will be able to understand several words & phrases, understand/answer familiar questions, and list/name/identify everyday things with learned phrases.

### **French** *(This is a required course for 8th grade year -long French 1)*

This is a continued introduction to the French language! We continue to learn the basics of communicating with french speakers around the world. We also do cultural activities that introduce students to the different places around the globe that use French as their

languages. We will develop our ability to understand words in French, answer basic questions, identify common things, and write some sentences about themselves.

### **Introduction to Biotechnology**

In 7th grade biotechnology we focus on cells, DNA and Genetics. We will also study infection control as it relates to viruses and bacteria.

### **Introduction to Office Productivity**

This 7th grade elective course is composed of instructional modules designed to provide hands-on instruction in basic keyboarding skills, computer concepts and software applications. The software application includes word processing, presentation software and spreadsheets.

### **Gateway to Technology: Design & Modeling**

This course uses solid modeling (a very sophisticated mathematical technique for representing solid objects) to introduce students to the design process. Utilizing this design approach, students understand how solid modeling has influenced their lives of design, measurement, computer modeling and skyscraper design. Using design briefs or abstracts, students create models and documentation to solve problems.

## **Required Course**

### **Health and Physical Education**

The Healthful Living Education course is designed to provide learning experiences that encourage the development of behaviors that promote a wellness oriented lifestyle and emphasize the choices and skills essential to a healthy life. This course is divided into two components: Physical Education and Health. Students will complete health lessons on a weekly basis, which will include the following topics: Drugs, Tobacco, Alcohol, Mental/Emotional Health, Nutrition and Reproductive Health while the remainder of the course will be composed of physical education related activities. Students will be introduced to various individual/team activities.

## **Rising 8th Grade Elective Course Descriptions**

### **Year -Long Courses**

#### **Band**

8th grade band is a continued class and requires 7th grade band as a prerequisite to join. 8th grade band, our advanced band, will play challenging music and prepare for MPA, our state contest. A large majority of our 8th grade students will be expected to audition for band events like all county and all district bands. Additionally, it is likely that the 8th grade band will take a trip in the Spring to continue to showcase our hardwork and talent!

#### **Chorus: Year -long**

In yearlong Chorus, students will continue improving their skills as singers and musicians. We will focus on vocal technique and music literacy. The Chorus will have multiple performance opportunities including a Winter Concert and a Spring Concert. Yearlong Chorus is the group that will participate in competitions/contests. Since this is a yearlong class students are able to continue learning and polishing the skills and techniques that are developed throughout the year. You do not have to have taken Chorus in past years to sign up! Anyone is welcome.

## **AVID**

Advancement Via Individual Determination. 8th grade AVID, a year long program provides an opportunity for students to understand all of the avenues of high school life. Former AVID students in college and in high school serve as guest speakers throughout the year. They help the 8th grade students understand the importance of selecting and achieving the right courses to further their education towards college life. Tutorial sessions are conducted twice a week. Fine tuning organizational and collaboration skills enable the students to become outstanding citizens in this productive society. 8th grade AVID students become responsible for their educational paths!

## **Spanish 1** *(must have completed 7th grade semester or year-long (1A) Spanish)*

Students will use what they learned in 7th grade Spanish as a foundation and will truly grow this year in their ability to communicate in Spanish through speaking, reading, writing, and listening. Throughout the course, students will make connections to the Spanish-speaking world and to each other. By the end of the year, students will be approaching or in the "Novice High" level of the national language proficiency scale. This is a year long class and, when successfully completed, can count for high school course credit.

## **French 1** *(must have completed 7th grade semester or year-long (1A) French)*

This is a continued introduction to the French language! We continue to learn the basics of communicating with french speakers around the world. We also do cultural activities that introduce students to the different places around the globe that use French as their French 1 continued...

languages. We will develop our ability to understand words in French, answer basic questions, identify common things, and write some sentences about themselves. This is a year long class and, when successfully completed, can count for high school course credit.

*High School Credit can be earned by taking and passing year-long World Languages.*

## **Semester Courses**

### **Art 2D**

The 2D, 8th grade Art course is designed for the Art student who desires to demonstrate Mastery of their art skills. The student is expected to think critically, solve problems creatively, and produce exemplary works of art. This class builds on concepts learned during 6th and 7th grade Art. Students will engage in experiences that encompass art history, art appreciation, art criticism and art production.

### **Art 3D**

In the 3D, 8th grade Art course, students will design and build sculptures. This is the most challenging Art class at Gravelly Hill. Students will learn the basics of building but they will have to problem solve and think critically in order to build their own particular sculpture. Students will research animals that they will sculpt and then create photo pages as a guide for the building process. The sculptures are an additive process using newspaper, wire, chipboard, and tape. The wood carvings of Oaxaca, Mexico are the inspiration for this semester-long project. Time management is crucial for success

### **Chorus: Semester**

In semester -long Chorus, students will continue improving their skills as singers and musicians. We will focus on vocal technique and music literacy. The Chorus will have multiple performance opportunities including a Winter Concert and a Spring Concert. You do not have to have taken Chorus in past years to sign up! Anyone is welcome.

### **Agricultural & Environmental Biotechnology**

In 8th grade, biotechnology we will continue our study of cells, DNA and genetics. We will also discuss biotechnology in plants, food biotechnology and transgenic farm animals. We will also learn about industrial and environmental biotechnology.

### **Gateway to Technology: Automation & Robotics**

In this course students trace the history and development of automation and robotics. They learn about structures, energy transfer, robotic end effectors, machine automation, and computer control systems. Students acquire knowledge and skills in engineering problem solving and explore requirements for careers in engineering.

### **Exploring Business & Entrepreneurship**

This 8th grade elective course explores the nature of business in an international economy and related careers in the fields such as entrepreneurship, financial services, information technology, and marketing. Emphasis is on using the computer while studying applications in these careers along with problem - solving and thinking skills.

### **Computer Science Discoveries I**

Computer Science Discoveries is an introductory, classroom -based course for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. The course takes a wide lens on computer science by covering topics such as programming, physical computing, web development, design, and data. The course inspires students as they build their own websites, apps, games, and physical computing devices.

## **Required Course**

### **Health and Physical Education**

The Healthful Living Education course is designed to provide learning experiences that encourage the development of behaviors that promote a wellness oriented lifestyle and emphasize the choices and skills essential to a healthy life. This course is divided into two components: Physical Education and Health. Students will complete health lessons on a weekly basis, which will include the following topics: Drugs, Tobacco, Alcohol, Mental/Emotional Health, Nutrition and Reproductive Health while the rest of the course will be composed of physical education related activities.

Students will be introduced to various individual/team activities. Skills, rules, strategies



and sportsmanship will be covered in, but not limited to the following:

Basketball

Volleyball

Tag/Flag Football

Team Handball

Badminton

Slow-Pitch Softball

Floor Hockey

Ping Pong

Indoor/Outdoor Soccer

Fitness

Variety of PE Games

Archery

