

Paola Middle School Course Descriptions For Electives

Art (6-8): Students may enroll in Art class for one semester or request to be in the class for the year. Art class allows students the opportunity to create pieces that develop the elements of Art principles of design. Students in this course will obtain foundation knowledge of a series of different artistic mediums. Students will be asked to complete a number of projects that follow detailed steps, familiarizing them with various techniques.

Band (6-8): Students are enrolling in band as a yearlong course. 6th Grade is for beginners with no experience needed. All band classes will focus on preparing music to perform at school concerts. Students will work to develop the skills of music reading, tone production, rhythm, tuning, technique, and rehearsal and performance discipline. Students will work as an individual, section, and as an ensemble to prepare for performances. Band practices during class time, and there are 2-5 evening concerts per year, scheduled to avoid sports/activity conflicts.

Leadership (7-8): Leadership is a semester class. Students will learn about important characteristics of leaders and how to develop those same characteristics in themselves. Principles of leadership will be a focus of this course.

Math Lab (6-8): This class is designed to help close achievement gaps for students who struggle with math concepts. Students will be selected based on assessment scores and academic performance in the area of math. This is not a class students will be able to select on their own as rosters for the class will be created based on data collected.

Music/Choir Grade 6: This is a semester class, however, students may opt to enroll in music/choir as a year-long course. Choir is a group of students who are ready to gain experience singing at the middle school level. Students will be excited to learn more about singing together and performing for groups. Students are expected to participate in concerts. All 6th grade students will be enrolled in a music class, unless they are in band. A student who is in band may also choose to be in music/choir.

Music/Choir (7-8): This is a semester class, however, students may opt to enroll in choir as a year-long course. Choir is a group of students who are ready to gain experience singing at the middle school level. Students will be excited to learn more about singing together and performing for groups. Students are expected to participate in concerts.

Reading Lab (6-8): This class is designed to help close achievement gaps for students who struggle with reading concepts. Students will be selected based on assessment scores and academic performance in the area of reading. This is not a class students will be able to select on their own as rosters for the class will be created on data collected.

Spanish Grades 6 & 7: This is a semester class intended as an introduction to the Spanish language. This course undertakes the study of basic structures that allow students to express themselves in simple sentences. This course not only aims to teach students to understand, speak, read and write Spanish at a basic level, but also to interest them in the life and culture of Spanish speaking people.

Spanish Grade 8: This is a yearlong course. Students enrolled in 8th grade Spanish will be given high school credit for this course provided they get a B or better for both semesters. This class aims to fully prepare students to enter a second year of Spanish class in high school. In this course, students will work on vocabulary and grammar use, comprehension and overall cultural awareness.

STREAM Missions (Grade 6): Students enroll in Missions as a semester class. This course offers learning experiences in the areas of science, technology, reading, engineering, art, and math. Students work in groups of 4 and complete activities which involve science, engineering, artistic activities, and math applications. Missions units include Crime Lab, Motion and Force, Engineering Structures, Rocketry, and Scientific Discovery.

STEM Lab (Grades 7 & 8): Students enroll in STEM Lab as a semester class. This course offers a variety of learning opportunities that engage students in engineering and technology projects focusing on specific areas of science and math. Some of our projects include Amusement Park Physics, Building Bridges, Robotics, CO₂ Cars, and Wind Energy. In addition, 8th graders will explore opportunities with the skilled trades with carpentry and measurement units.

Study Skills/Organization (6-8): This is a semester class focused on time management, organization, and homework completion. Students who qualify for this class need assistance in completing homework on time.