



## Attention 8<sup>th</sup> Grade McAuliffe Lions - CLASS OF 2020



**Preparations have already begun for the 2019-2020 school year and we are excited to present to you next year's proposed classes!** Each student will take two different Humanities classes, one per semester or a full year band or chorus. Courses will run on an "A/B Day" rotation, which means your class will alternate with your PE/Health class. For example if you have PE on an "A Day" your Humanities, Band or Chorus course will be on the "B Day." Please take some time to read over the following descriptions with your family. Once you have carefully read each description and completed the **Course Selection Sheet**, please return it signed by both you and your parents. Please remember that there are **no guarantees** that your selection will be available. We will not be able to honor request changes over the summer or in September. **Selections sheets are due to your homeroom teacher on Friday, FEB 15th.**

### **2019-2020 Proposed 8th Grade Courses**

**Band:** Eighth grade band will further develop skills previously introduced during seventh grade band courses. Advanced concepts and more interesting musical styles will be focused on to prepare students for the high school band experience. Critique of performances, both student and professional, will be utilized to help refine our ensemble. Group lessons will be offered during the school day to address specific skills required by each instrument group. Students will perform at two evening concerts during the school year to present their hard work to parents, friends, and the community.

**Chorus:** Eighth grade chorus welcomes both new singers and students who have been involved in the music program for years. Our daily rehearsal consists of learning how to read music and singing a variety of music from different genres. Members of the 8th grade chorus have multiple performance opportunities including two concerts during the year and choral competitions.

### **Art courses include:**

**Drawing Studio:** Learn the building blocks for great drawing! Understand how to see with an artist's eye and capture what we see on paper! In this course, you will experiment with different techniques and many drawing tools to create value and texture. Draw portraits realistically, make objects look 3D or draw in perspective and create a cityscape!

**Ceramic Studio:** This is truly a hands-on elective where students will create both functional and decorative ceramics. Students will learn how to use the techniques of pinching, extruder, coil, slab and mold construction.

**Painting Studio:** Make a splash in the art world while you learn painting basics, tricks and techniques! Explore color, value, and textural effects to create abstract, symbolic, or realistic works of art. From small paintings to grand murals, experiment with inks, watercolors and acrylic, or even paint with oil and chalk pastels!

**Sculpture Studio:** Create 3D abstract and realistic sculptures using paper mache or clay, use cardboard, wood and found objects to create an assemblage use plaster to create abstract forms, or even experiment with duct tape! Become a master craftsman constructing sculptures. If you like to experiment, then this class is for you!

### **Physical Education/Social Studies Courses:**

**History of Sports:** This History elective class will examine the development of sports in America. Our historical study will focus on helping students gain a better understanding of the inner relationship sports has on social, economic, cultural, and political events in history.

**Team Building:** Think you are a team player? Do you know how to effectively communicate? This course is designed to allow students to participate in activities and challenges that require students to work and cooperate with one another, develop communication and leadership skills in order to solve a problem or succeed as a team. They will accomplish small group challenges that foster teamwork, risk taking, creativity, and problem solving.

**Wellness and Nutrition:** This class encourages students to better develop an understanding of the nutritional needs of the human body in relation to fitness and wellness. Caloric intake including carbohydrates, fats and proteins will be evaluated as well as the importance of vitamins and minerals in the diet.

### Science Courses:

**Forensic Science:** Students will study science and technology and how it is used to solve a criminal investigation. In this class you will learn how to search for evidence, gather clues, and discover how science can help solve a mystery. You will be taught how to lift fingerprints, analyze impressions, and extract DNA.

**Oceanography:** This course is designed to provide students with knowledge about our global oceans and local estuaries. This class is segmented into four units of study: geographical, chemical, physical, and biological units. Within these units, students will develop a working knowledge of the topography of the ocean floor, will study the organic and inorganic composition of the oceans, explore tides and their impact on weather patterns, and introduce the variety of marine life from microbial organisms through marine mammals.

**Engineering & Design:** This course is designed to introduce students to the practices of engineering design. Students will utilize a 7 step design process where they identify problems, brainstorm for solutions, evaluate design ideas, work within given constraints, and construct and evaluate their designs. Students will participate in several design challenges, as well as research and experience necessary science and engineering concepts relative to the projects they will be constructing. Throughout the elective there will be several opportunities for students to collaborate with peers, engage in discussion, argue with evidence, and evaluate and optimize solutions. The Class will follow the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) for engineering design, as well as utilize the 8 practices set forth by the NGSS.

### Technology Courses:

**Business Technology:** Students will be introduced to basic business concepts and terms, through discussion, activities, and independent research that will lay the groundwork for further study in high school and college. They will learn the language of business, how businesses are started and funded, obstacles that may be encountered and hopefully overcome, how to market a business and themselves, how to think creatively, entrepreneurially, and ethically, and other topics of interest, while they are writing a business plan and presenting it to the class.

**Digital Photography:** Say cheese! This course will build an understanding of the technical and artistic aspects of digital photography. Students will become proficient in the use of their digital cameras and edit photos using Adobe Photoshop. This course will introduce the elements of art and principles of design, as well as the history of photography. Students should have a basic level of computer knowledge and interest in learning photography.

**Introduction to Computer Programming:** In this class, students will enter the world of computer science by learning how to create animations, computer games, and interactive projects. Using Scratch, a graphical block style programming language developed at MIT, students will learn fundamental programming concepts such as variables, loops, conditional statements, and event handling.

**Robotics:** Within *Intro to Robotics*, students will learn about engineering and engineering problem solving. They will be introduced to the LEGO Robotics Design Systems, as well other interactive programs. Students will also be learning key STEM principles through the process of robotics competitions. The curriculum is heavily focused on mechatronic principles; as such, programming knowledge is NOT required.

## World Language

**Advanced Spanish:** This is a high school Honors Spanish I class. The students will take an accelerated high school Spanish I curriculum in 8th grade. They will have various cultural projects, unit exams as well as a midterm & final exam. Students can advance to high school Honors II upon the successful completion of this course. Prerequisites would be an 98% or higher in 7th grade Spanish and (recommended but not required) for the student to be in an advanced math class. **This is a Unified Arts course; therefore it will run during 2 marking periods, every day (Monday-Friday) for 44 minutes per day. One of the other Unified Arts classes (Community Leadership, Foods, Video Tech) will be dropped to accommodate taking this Advanced Spanish Class. Additionally, taking this class does not meet your 2 year requirement for taking a language at the high school level. This class is NOT an honors course and is not a weighted middle school class.**