

8th Grade Elective Course Descriptions

Computer Science Discovery 8 (Year Long Class)

Computer Science Discoveries is a full-year introductory computer science survey course for students in Grades 6-8. The course takes a wide lens on computer science by covering topics such as programming, physical computing, HTML/CSS, and data. Students are empowered to create authentic artifacts and engage with CS as a medium for creativity, communication, problem solving, and fun.

Creative Writing 8 (Semester Class)

This course is a continuation from 7th grade Creative Writing that includes written practice and responses to poetry, plays, long essays, and short stories. Students write spontaneously about a word or picture, a sound or touch, drawing from their imaginations. Students write on topics inspired by newspapers, magazines, television, events around them, and models by the masters, all of which led to contemplation and discussion.

Drama 8 (Semester Class)

Creating, performing, responding, and connecting are some of the skills students use to understand how drama communicates ideas and allows for self-expression. Students will study, write and/or perform scenes and monologues. Students will also be introduced to basic history of Drama and have the opportunity to perform and/or be part of a production.

Leadership (Semester Class – Formerly Career Prep; NO High School Credit)

This course prepares students with knowledge and skills in the areas of career development and academic planning, and computer skill application.

Spanish 1 (Year Long Class – High School Credit)

This course is designed for students of all levels of ability. Basic pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar, and culture are emphasized throughout the course.

We Build It Better (Semester Class)

The We Build It Better program lays a foundation for students to understand the process of developing a new product and equipping them with the skills to design and create an innovative solution to a real-world industry-based challenge. Is the program engineering, manufacturing, computer science? It is ALL of that and more!

We Build It Better is an all-inclusive 18-week, industry-designed educator-developed, curricular experience that engages middle school students in a work-like STEAM environment.

7th Grade Elective Course Descriptions

Art (Semester Class)

This course will provide instruction on the basic elements of art. Students will explore how to create and produce arts products, relating and connecting them to historical, current, and personal events. Students will also have an introduction to history of art.

Creative Writing 7 (Semester Class)

This course includes written practice and responses to poetry, plays, long essays, and short stories. Students write spontaneously about a word or picture, a sound or touch, drawing from their imaginations. Students write on topics inspired by newspapers, magazines, television, events around them, and models by the masters, all of which led to contemplation and discussion.

Debate (Semester Class)

This course will develop and improve public speaking, argumentative, and critical thinking skills in communication settings. Students will prepare and deliver speeches and participate in several of in class debates and forums on current topics. Techniques will be taught to control speech anxiety, and structure and organize information to present to a variety of audiences. As such, the fundamentals of physical and vocal delivery skills, use of language and gesturing, as well as listening skills will be learned. Please note that time requirements are given for each speech.

Drama (Semester Class)

Creating, performing, responding, and connecting are some of the skills students use to understand how drama communicates ideas and allows for self-expression. Students will study, write and/or perform scenes and monologues. Students will also be introduced to basic history of Drama and have the opportunity to perform and/or be part of a production.

Music Appreciation (Semester Class)

Students will engage, through criteria set in collaboration with the teacher, in meaningful and purposeful music-making within the four Artistic Processes; creating music (improvising, composing, arranging); performing music (singing or with instruments); responding to music (listening to and analyzing); connecting music learning and experiences to the larger curriculum, other cultures and disciplines within and outside of the arts. In doing so, students will experience the following concepts of music: rhythm, melody, form, timbre, texture and harmony, style, and expression; taught by a certified music teacher.

Computer Science Discovery 7 (Year Long Class)

Computer Science Discoveries is a full-year introductory computer science survey course for students in Grades 6-8. The course takes a wide lens on computer science by covering topics such as programming, physical computing, HTML/CSS, and data. Students are empowered to create authentic artifacts and engage with CS as a medium for creativity, communication, problem solving, and fun.

7th & 8th Grade Full Year Electives

Band (Year Long Course)

Join In on The Best Time in Middle School!!!

The Band is a great way to get started at Spanish Fort Middle School! There are so many instruments in our program, and every single one is important to our group! Band is a GREAT experience, and EVERYONE can enjoy music and fun in SFMS Band! There are so many things to enjoy in band class! We perform at school events like Pep Rallies, Concerts in and out of school, as well as Contests and Competitions where we earn medals and trophies. But not everything in band is about performing. We go on fun trips, enjoy Band parties, and play fun music! Band only gets better the longer you stay involved. Each year there is new and exciting opportunities in Band! High school has many awesome opportunities like Marching Band, and Jazz Band. Finally, learning to play an instrument will not only be rewarding to perform and play, but you can also receive scholarship money for college! Just because you play an instrument! AND, people that learn music make better grades, as well as score higher on tests. Band is rewarding in so many ways! This year, EVERY Senior who was selected for Baldwin County Honor Band were offered \$20,000 in college scholarships!!

If you have ANY questions, just ask!! If you don't get a chance to talk to me while we are at your school, feel free to email me at nhughes@bcbe.org. Want to communicate more? Check out our Facebook page @sfmsband, as well as our Instagram - @sfmsband. Can't wait to see you in Band next year!!!

Choir (Year Long Course)

This class is designed for anyone who has a desire to be a part of a team that works together toward a common goal. If you have a good attitude and are willing to work, this is the place for you! If you're not sure your voice is the best, that's ok! We will learn to improve our singing skills along the way. We are a competitive group within our district and state, so If you're willing to work hard and want to have fun, choir is the place for you!

Gifted (Project Jubilee) (Year Long Course)

Students who are identified to be Gifted and Talented can be served through the Gifted Elective. This elective which allows further opportunities for collaborative and independent learning. This year-long elective includes an inquiry, project-based course that makes connections across the disciplines.