

2017-2018 Course Descriptions

Courses are listed alphabetically. Availability of courses may be subject to change due to staffing adjustments. MLMS makes every effort to honor student requests.

Advanced Band (requires Band Director approval)

Length of Course: 1 Year

This course is a sequel to intermediate band. Students will continue development of all skills taught in intermediate band with more emphasis placed on performing. Responsibilities of the individual within the large music ensemble will be stressed. Several required performances include school concerts, school district festivals and outside school performances. Students provide their own instrument except for the larger instruments that may be available from the school.

Advanced Choir

Length of Course: 1 Year

This is a yearlong course for students with previous experience reading music. This choir is performance focused with a continued emphasis on the fundamentals of voice development, sight-reading, and performance. Several required performances include school concerts, district festivals and evening performances. Only students in the Advanced Choir may audition for the Chugiak High School Choir Program.

Advanced Orchestra (requires Orchestra Director approval)

Length of Course: 1 Year

This course is for students who wish to develop their performance skills beyond an intermediate level. Students will continue development of string skills with more emphasis placed on performing. Responsibilities of the individual within the large music ensemble will be stressed. Public performances will be required. Students usually provide their own instrument except for the larger instruments that may be available from the school.

Applied Technology

Length of Course: 1 Semester

This course provides continued emphasis on problem solving scenarios and situations found in today's technologies. Students may select from the following: Technology Systems, Computer Aided Design Technology, Laser Technology, Construction Technology, Communications Technology, Video and Multimedia Technology, Earthquake Technology, Transportation Technology, GPS Technology, Space Construction Technology, Aviation Technology, Materials Technology, or Hydroponics Technology.

Art Exploratory

Length of Course: 1 Semester

In Exploratory Art students experiment with a variety of art mediums including pencil, graphite, watercolor, tempera, marker, oil pastel, pen and ink, paper and clay. Students will learn the basis of drawing, design, painting and pottery, working in 2D and 3D. Exercising the right side of their brain, students develop their observational and creative skills. Both contemporary and traditional artist and their work will be studied as students develop the skills of art criticism. Each semester the class focuses on a famous artist learning about their life and works. Projects are completed in the style of that artist. Students keep a sketchpad to record their practices, drawings, and art observations. Fee is \$10. Offered first semester. Class is repeatable from one year to the next.

Business Education

Length of Course: 1 Semester

Students will learn basic word processing, spreadsheets, and databases in several software formats. The class will be individually paced with students advancing to multimedia, graphics, and manipulation of data, e-mail, and web pages when ready.

Cultural Art

Length of Course: 1 Semester

In this class students study the art of various world and Native American cultures. The art of a specific culture is examined and then students create a project in the style of that culture. Primarily a 3D class, students will keep a sketchpad with observations and sketches for their projects. The highlight of this class is making plaster molds from student's faces.

Students then individually study a culture and create a mask in the style of that culture with clay and accessories. Fee is \$10. Class is repeatable from one year to the next. Students may take Exploratory Art first semester and then Cultural Art second semester.

Debate

Length of Course: 1 Semester

Students will explore multiple perspectives and research and defend a variety of positions and issues while developing strong reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. The study and practice of academic debate will strengthen various language arts and civic skills including: argument construction, evidence analysis and evaluation, organization, outlining, persuasion, effective word choice, citation, research competence, media literacy, reading comprehension, summarization, public speaking, ethics, and civility.

Drama

Length of Course: 1 Semester

Everything from improv to acting will be explored in this drama class. Emphasis will be placed on doing. Students will be expected to try activities in a supportive trusting atmosphere. Some history of theater will be studied in addition to the performance activities.

Intermediate Band Level 1 (placement determined by Band Director)

Length of Course: 1 Year

This course is for students who wish to develop their performance skills beyond the beginning level. Students will encounter a continuation of skills and fundamentals from beginning band with increasing emphasis on better tone production, good intonation, refinement of muscular coordination, experimentation in small ensembles and memorization of scales in basic keys. Responsibilities of the individual within the large music ensemble will be stressed. Public performances will be required. Students provide their own instrument except for the larger instruments that may be available from the school.

Intermediate Band Level 2 (placement determined by Band Director)

Length of Course: 1 Year

This course is for students who wish to develop their performance skills beyond intermediate band (level 1). Responsibilities of the individual within the large music ensemble will be stressed. Public performances will be required. Students provide their own instrument except for the larger instruments that may be available from the school.

Law Studies

Length of Course: 1 Semester

This elective is patterned after the Anchorage Youth Court. Students will learn the basic concepts behind the need for laws as well as the common vocabulary used in legal settings. The Constitution and the Bill of Rights along with specific case studies will be examined. Students will also be trained in court procedure and practice roles of specific court positions such as bailiff, attorney, and judge.

Intermediate Orchestra

Length of Course: 1 Year

This course is for students who wish to develop their performance skills beyond a fundamental level. Students will encounter a continuation of skills and fundamentals from beginning orchestra with increasing emphasis on better tone production, good intonation, refinement of muscular coordination, experimentation in small ensembles, and memorization of scales in basic keys. Responsibilities of the individual within the large music ensemble will be stressed. Public performances will be required. Students usually provide their own instruments, except for the larger instruments that may be available from the school.

Music Keyboarding

Length of Course: 1 Year

Piano Keyboarding Classes include many facets of Music in Education. It is a class open to all students. The class includes: theory, composition, genre, history, dance, performance, technology, Orff instruments, audience etiquette, listening, manners, ukuleles, excursions and, most of all, learning

how to play the piano. Students can take the class for 1 year, 2 years, or 3 years. Mirror Lake has some piano keyboards for free check out to support this class.

Spanish 1A - 7th Grade

Length of Course: 1 Year

World Language Incentive Credit - visit ASD website

<http://www.asdk12.org/worldlanguages>

Students are active participants in learning experiences, which encourage confidence and proficiency in listening, speaking, reading and writing of Spanish. Units of study integrate the culture of countries where Spanish is spoken and introduce meaningful vocabulary centered around thematic topics such as school, city and family life, body, food, clothing, numbers, telling time, place, and sports. Basic grammatical structures are introduced to support the developing writing skills.

Spanish 1B (must have completed Spanish 1A/teacher recommendation) 8th Grade

Length of Course: 1 Year

World Language Incentive Credit - visit ASD website

<http://www.asdk12.org/worldlanguages>

Students continue to develop and expand their proficiency skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing of Spanish with more in-depth study of the Hispanic/Latino culture. Communicative activities in Spanish will involve students in a variety of practical situations for further development of the oral and written language including additional grammatical structures in preparation for level II high school language course.

Wilderness Safety

Length of Course: 1 Semester

This course will include a variety of subjects related to the safety and enjoyment of the Alaskan outdoors. Topics include: compass and map reading, safety in bear country, avalanche awareness, ATV and boating safety, fire building, shelter construction, knots, and lashing along with various other survival skills. A large segment of this course will be devoted

to hunter safety and hunter ethics using materials provided by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. This class will also enable you to work toward a hunter education certificate, which is required in the State of Alaska. No firearms will be used in this class. You will practice many of these skills outdoors.