

Paola Middle School Course Descriptions

Music/Choir: 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.

Band: Students are enrolling in band as a yearlong course. All music ensembles will focus on preparing music to perform at school concerts. Students will work to develop the skills of tuning, rhythm, tonal production, and rehearsal and performance discipline. Students will work as individual, section and as an ensemble to prepare for performances.

Read-Right: Read-Right is a supplemental reading class only available to qualifying students: Reading skills below grade level on standard reading assessment, struggling in language class and not meeting benchmark standards. Course focuses on fluency and comprehension skills.

Study Skills/Organization: This is a semester class intended as a regular education intervention. This class will target study skills, organization and homework planning. Students who qualify for this class need assistance in developing these skills for success.

Spanish Grades 6 & 7: This is a semester long 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.

STEM Missions (Grade 6): Students enroll in Missions as a semester class. This course offers learning experiences in the areas of science, technology, reading, engineering, and math. Students work in groups of 4 and complete activities which involve engineering, artistic activities, and math applications.

STEM Lab (Grades 7 & 8): Students enroll in STEM Lab as a semester class. This course offers a variety of learning opportunities that build their expertise in the areas of Math and Science. In addition students will have the opportunity to design and print creations on 3D Printers.

Art: 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 followed detailed steps, familiarizing them with various techniques.

Leadership: Leadership is a one semester class open to responsible, service minded students wishing to make a difference at Paola Middle School and in the Paola Community. 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.