



6th Grade Elective Courses

River Ridge Middle School ~ 2026-2027 School Year

Half-Credit Electives (.5) – 1 semester course (August-December or January-May)

Acting 1: Through simple scripted scenes, performance projects, and/or practical application, students learn to identify what makes performances believable and explore the tools used to create, articulate, and execute them. Public performances may serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. Students may be required to attend and/or participate in rehearsals and performances outside of the school day to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom.

Basic Theatre: Students learn the basics of theatre arts by exploring a character through such activities as pantomime, improvisation and effective speaking using articulation, projection and breathing. Students also explore elements of technical theatre by exploring the use of such elements as costumes, props and scenery. Students practice writing for the theatre and explore various theatre roles and functions. Public performances may serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. Students may be required to attend and/or participate in rehearsals and performances outside of the school day to support, extend and assess learning in the classroom. Please note that additional fees may apply for certain course-related items, activities, or materials.

Career Research & Decision Making: The purpose of this course is to enable students to explore careers/career clusters and make informed career choices. Activities enable students to increase self-awareness and develop the skills needed to successfully plan for postsecondary education and the workplace. Career assessment should include interests, aptitudes, and basic skills. Work-based learning strategies appropriate for this course include job shadowing, field trips, and mentors. Work-based activities allow students to evaluate their career choices as they relate to actual careers at the worksite.

Digital Discoveries 6: This course introduces students to computer science as a vehicle for problem-solving, communication, and personal expression. The course focuses on the visible aspects of computing and computer science. It encourages students to see where computer science exists around them and how they can engage with it as a tool for exploration and expression. By taking this course, students will gain the knowledge needed to pursue the ICT Multimedia Essentials Digital Tool.

Engineering 1 – Technical Design Technology: The purpose of this course is to give students an opportunity to explore the area of technical design technology and its associated careers. Students will be given the opportunity to solve technological problems using a variety of tools, materials, processes and systems while gaining an understanding of the effects of technical design technology on our everyday lives.

Engineering 2 – Robotics: The purpose of this course is to give students an opportunity to explore the area of robotics technology and its associated careers. Students will be given the opportunity to solve technological problems using a variety of tools, materials, processes and systems while gaining an understanding of the effects of robotics technology on our everyday lives.

Exploring 2D Art: Students investigate a wide range of media and techniques, from both historical and contemporary perspective, as they engage in the art-making processes of creating two-dimensional works, which may include drawing, painting, printmaking, and/or collage. Student artists reflect on their own artwork and that of others through critical analysis to achieve artistic goals related to craftsmanship, technique, and application of 21st-century skills. Opportunities are provided for creative decision-making in the context of the structural elements of art and the organizational principles of design. This course incorporates hands-on activities and consumption of art materials.

Exploring 3D Art: Students learn to translate their two-dimensional skills into three-dimensional forms through the exploration of natural, abstract, and synthetic sculptural forms using materials that may include, but are not limited to, clay, plaster, and mixed media for creative expression. These student artists develop perceptual, creative, technical, and problem-solving skills in a sculptural context as they design and produce works of art with personal expression. Students in M/J Exploring Three-Dimensional Art focus on use of safety procedures for process, media, and techniques. This course incorporates hands-on activities and consumption of art materials.

Exploring Music Performance, Guitar 1: Students with little or no experience develop basic guitar skills and knowledge, including simple and full-strum chords, strumming patterns, playing/singing simple melodies, foundational music theory, parts of the guitar, and ensemble skills. Beginning guitarists explore the careers and music of significant performers in pop/rock, jazz, blues, classical, country, bluegrass, and hard rock/metal genres. Public performances may serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. Students may be required to attend and/or participate in rehearsals and performances outside the school day to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom. This course may also require students to obtain a musical instrument (e.g., borrow, rent, purchase) from an outside source.

Health: The purpose of this course is to provide students with the opportunity to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to become health literate and practice responsible behaviors to promote a healthy lifestyle and healthy living. This course focuses on the comprehensive health issues core to the optimal development of adolescents.

Introduction to Arts, A/V Technology & Communication: The purpose of this course is to assist students in making informed decisions regarding their future academic and occupational goals and to provide information regarding careers in the Arts, A/V Technology and Communication career cluster. Students are introduced to the terminology, careers, history, required skills, and technologies.



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Introduction to Cybersecurity: This course will introduce students to the field of computer science, specifically the study of the many aspects of computing and networking systems and the rules, guidelines, and laws that affect their use in education, business, and everyday life. Instructional time will focus on areas such as computer hardware and software, wired and wireless networking, computing languages, internet and online safety, copyright and digital footprint, and career exploration.

Introduction to Dance Techniques: Students develop dance technique and movement vocabulary in one or more dance forms. In the process, dancers demonstrate use of class and performance etiquette, analytical and problem-solving skills, and studio practices in a safe dance environment. Students may be required to attend and/or participate in rehearsals and performances outside of the school day to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom. Students in this class may need to obtain (e.g., borrow, purchase) appropriate footwear and/or dance attire from an outside source. This course satisfies one semester of the required physical education needed toward middle grades promotion. Please note that additional fees may apply for certain course-related items, activities, or materials.

PE – Comprehensive 6/7: This course is designed for 6th and 7th-grade students and intended to be 18 weeks in length. The purpose of this course is to provide a foundation of knowledge, skills, and values necessary for the development of a physically active lifestyle. The course content provides exposure to a variety of movement opportunities and experiences which includes, but is not limited to Fitness Activities, Educational Gymnastics and Dance, and Team Sports. The integration of fitness concepts throughout the content is critical to student success in this course and in the development of a healthy and physically active lifestyle.

PE – Fitness 6: This fitness course is designed for 6th-grade students and intended to be 18 weeks in length. The purpose of this course is to provide students with the knowledge, skills, and values they need to become healthy and physically active for a lifetime. This course addresses both the health and skill-related components of physical fitness which are critical for students' success.

Full-Credit Electives (1.0) – Yearlong Course (August-May)

Band 1: Students with little or no instrumental experience develop foundational instrumental technique, foundational music literacy, and aesthetic musical awareness through rehearsal, performance, and study of high-quality band literature. Instrumentalists work on the fundamentals of music notation, sound production, instrument care and maintenance, and personal and group rehearsal strategies. Public performances may serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. Students may be required to attend and/or participate in rehearsals and performances outside the school day to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom. Please note that additional fees may apply for certain course-related items, activities, or materials.

Chorus 1: Students with little or no choral experience develop beginning vocal technique and skills, critical and creative thinking skills, and an appreciation of music from around the world and through time. Public performances may serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. Students may be required to attend and/or participate in rehearsals and performances outside the school day to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom. Please note that additional fees may apply for certain course-related items, activities, or materials.

Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, and Learning Strategies: The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop learning strategies, critical-thinking skills, and problem-solving skills to enhance their performance in academic and nonacademic endeavors. Content includes strategies for acquiring, storing, and retrieving information, strategies for oral and written communication, critical-thinking operations, processes, and enabling skills, problem-solving skills and strategies, and strategies for linking new information with prior knowledge.

Dance 1: Students develop dance technique and movement vocabulary in two or more dance forms. In the process, dancers demonstrate use of class and performance etiquette, analytical and problem-solving skills, and studio practices in a safe dance environment. Students may be required to attend and/or participate in rehearsals and performances outside the school day to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom. Students in this class may need to obtain (e.g., borrow, purchase) appropriate footwear and/or dance attire from an outside source. This course satisfies one semester of the required physical education needed toward middle grades promotion. Please note that additional fees may apply for certain course-related items, activities, or materials.

Musical Theatre 1: Student's coursework focuses on, but is not limited to, basic acting, basic vocal performance, basic dance/movement, non-dance movement, and staging, which transfer readily to musical theatre literature. Students will survey the current trends in musical theatre by studying representative literature. Students will explore the unique staging and technical demands of musicals in contrast to non-musical plays. Public performances may serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. Students may be required to attend and/or participate in rehearsals and performances outside the school day to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom. Please note that additional fees may apply for certain course-related items, activities, or materials.

Orchestra 1: Students who have little or no experience on violin, viola, cello, bass, or harp explore high-quality music literature written or transcribed for string orchestra. Study includes the development of foundational instrumental ensemble techniques, performance skills, music literacy, and aesthetic awareness. Public performances may serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. Students may be required to attend and/or participate in rehearsals and performances outside the school day to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom. This course may also require students to obtain a musical instrument (e.g., borrow, rent, purchase) from an outside source. Please note that additional fees may apply for certain course-related items, activities, or materials.