

**Heartland Middle School**  
**Elective Course Descriptions**  
**2020-2021**

**APP CREATORS (8)**

App Creators introduces students to the field of computer science and the concepts of computational thinking, through the creation of mobile apps. Students are challenged to be creative and innovative, as they collaboratively design and develop mobile solutions to engaging, authentic problems. Students experience the positive impact of the application of computer science to society as well as to other disciplines, particularly biomedical science. The unit broadens students' understanding of computer science concepts through meaningful applications. The unit provides students opportunities for self-expression. Teams identify a personal or community problem of interest to them that can be solved with a mobile app solution.

**AROUND THE WORLD (6,7,8)**

Curious about the way other people around the globe live? Why do people act the way they do? Around the World is a class that allows students to gain a global perspective of why cultures are unique by exploring specific customs (holidays, foods art, etc.). You will also gain insights into current events both nationally and abroad. Around the World offers a fun opportunity to get better connected to the world.

**ART (6,7,8)**

In this course, students will explore the elements of art and begin to understand how they affect the way they see and interpret the world. Students will explore career options artists have and discover artists past and present. Students will be given the opportunity to explore different art mediums and genres. Due to the nature of this course, an art fee for consumable supplies is needed. In 6th grade, a \$5 donation is requested but not required for this class. In 7th & 8th grade, a \$15 supply fee is required.

**BAND (6,7,8)**

6th Grade Band separates each instrument into its own class, each with its own teacher. Students have the opportunity to enroll in one of the following instrument classes: Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Cornet (Trumpet), Trombone, or Bells/Percussion. Emphasis will be placed on fundamental rhythmic and melodic skills, basic instrument techniques and building overall musicianship. Twice a year, the instruments come together to perform a concert. Band is available for any student who wants to play an instrument, with no need for previous musical experience.

7th grade band is offered to students who have successfully completed 6th grade band. Student's enroll in class according to their instrument families—Woodwinds, Brass, or Percussion. Students will continue to progress from their beginning band year as they prepare and perform various styles of music. Students will participate in small ensembles, contests, and perform two concerts. Emphasis will be placed on furthering technique, and enhancing musicianship. In addition, a Heartland Band uniform is required.

8th Grade Band is offered to students who have successfully completed the previous two years of band. This course combines all instruments into one large ensemble. Emphasis will be placed on furthering individual technique, while enhancing musicianship and improving ensemble skills. This course lays the foundation for participation in the High School Band Program. Students will participate in small ensembles, and the band will perform multiple concerts and contests throughout the year. In addition, a Heartland Band uniform is required.

**CHALLENGE (6,7,8)**

This is a project-based, hands-on course that encourages critical thinking skills. This course is not limited to students qualified as Gifted/Talented, but allows all students to be exposed to the challenge content.

## **COMPUTER SCIENCE FOR INNOVATORS & MAKERS (7)**

Computer Science for Innovators and Makers (IM) teaches students that programming goes beyond the virtual world into the physical world. Students are challenged to creatively use sensors and actuators to develop systems that interact with their environment. While designing algorithms and using computational thinking practices, students code and upload programs to microcontrollers that perform a variety of authentic tasks. The unit broadens students' understanding of computer science concepts through meaningful applications. Teams select and solve a personally relevant problem related to wearable technology, interactive art, or mechanical devices.

## **DRAMA (6,7,8)**

Students will learn how to prepare and present a variety of material for performances such as monologues, duets, skits, speeches, and possibly a one-act play. Students will learn effective strategies for both verbal and nonverbal communication and enhance overall social/self-awareness, promote characterization, concentration, and creativity. They may also learn about the technical side of theater and participate as a crew member in the area of costuming, lighting or sound.

## **FACS (Family and Consumer Science) (6,7,8)**

In 6th grade, this exploratory class will help students discover skills and explore topics needed for healthy personal development. Students will delve into learning through hands on activities in the areas of values, ethics and leadership, goal-setting, decision-making, problem-solving, dealing with emotions, learning to cook, good grooming, and personal safety. Student leadership through Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) is an integral part of this course.

In 7th grade, the **FACS: Tween Life** course is designed to assist students in developing essential skills for healthy growth and problem solving abilities. The course offers students the opportunity to explore learning through hands on activities in the areas of relationships, money management, sustainability, fashion design, and interior decorating. The skills gained at this early age will assist in creating a work and family life balance in the future. Student leadership through Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) is an integral part of this course.

In 8th grade, the **FACS: Basics** course is designed to provide students with basic information and skills needed to function effectively within the family and within a changing, complex society. Emphasis is given to the development of competencies related to: health and safety procedures related to child care; family and individual health; nutrition and food selection; meal planning, preparation, and service; and career skills. Upon completion of this course, the student should have developed basic life skills that promote a positive influence on the quality of life. Student leadership through Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) is an integral part of this course.

## **FIT FOR LIFE (6,7,8)**

An introduction to fitness, which will focus on muscular strength & endurance, cardiovascular fitness, flexibility, and general health & wellness.

## **GATE—GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION (6,7,8)**

\*Students must meet district criteria requirements to enroll in this class.

Ask "What if"? Discuss possibilities and probabilities by completing hands-on activities in class. Expand your mind in a fun, supportive, and challenging environment. Investigate, solve, create, and present. Topics may include, but not be limited to: The Seven Wonders of the World, world cultures and artifacts, creation of a unique civilization, archaeology, Space Cadet Training and other areas of individual interest.

Students describe this class as interesting, challenging, creative, informative, and FUN. We brainstorm and create (in class) projects that may include government campaigns, a million dollar shopping spree that requires budgeting and check writing skills, zombie apocalypse survival, and inventions of the future. Through hands-on activities, students develop skills in problem solving, various types of thinking, creativity, inquiry, leadership, and communication. A frequently heard question is "What if?" as we expand our imaginations, as well as knowledge.

A class paced for students who wish to develop real-life skills in a low-pressure atmosphere with high interest, hands-on activities. Projects develop skills in problem solving, various types of thinking, inquiry, creativity, communication and leadership in a fun and relaxed environment. The curriculum may include: Architecture (dream house design), the law, the future (including clothing/automobiles/housing trends/technology design and robots), marble mazes, animation, high school, college & ACT/SAT prep, history and other topics of individual interest. Projects are normally completed at school.

### **GATEWAY TO TECHNOLOGY (6,7,8)**

Project Lead the Way's Gateway to Technology is a middle school program designed to engage students in learning how to use engineering skills and concepts to solve everyday problems. Through hands-on and problem-based learning projects, students will use scientific principles and math concepts to solve real-world problems. Students will focus their active learning to help strengthen S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) inquiry.

6th Grade - Focus on exploring STEM topics such as flight and space, design and modeling, and coding through drone operation, in addition to a general overview of what STEM is.

7th Grade - A pre-engineering class with a focus on design and modeling, 3D printing, and Magic of Electrons.

8th Grade - Introduction to robotics through structural design, mechanism builds, and coding through the program RobotC.

### **LEADERSHIP (6,7,8 with some 8th grade sections by application and approval only)**

The goal of this class is to equip students for the challenges that lay ahead of all middle school students by motivating & enabling them to rise above the status quo. The key to leadership is character. The Leadership course will help students develop important quality traits and help them to become the type of person others will want to follow. Service projects, leadership practice, and school involvement will be major activities of this course.

### **MULTIMEDIA (7,8)**

Multimedia allows for student exploration and growth in various technological design outlets including but not limited to photography, videography, graphic design, stop motion videography, storyboarding, video editing, green screen, and script writing. This course will promote student creativity and group collaboration. With the exposure to the wide variety of computer applications and projects, this class will develop within students a foundation of experience that will be built upon throughout their educational career and beyond.

### **MUSICAL PRODUCTIONS (7th & 8th only)**

This class promotes student growth in the art of singing, acting, and dancing. No prior experience in any of those areas is needed to be in this class. This course will teach dramatic skills, be the school's show choir, participate in multiple optional choral events, and put together a large end of the year production. This is designed as a full-year elective and a uniform will have to be purchased for show choir performances.

### **ORCHESTRA (6,7,8)**

In 6th grade, beginning Orchestra is available for any student. Beginning string instruments are violin, viola, cello and string bass. Students will have the opportunity to participate in concerts for parents, as well as participate in the Edmond 6th grade festival. Students are required to purchase a Heartland Orchestra Polo that they will wear for all performances in 6th - 8th grade.

7th grade Orchestra is offered to students who have successfully completed 6th grade Orchestra. Students will participate in contests, festivals and concerts as an orchestra group member. They will also have the opportunity to perform solos and small ensembles in a contest situation. Contest orchestra will be composed of those students who perform with the musicianship and have the discipline required to represent their school in a competitive situation. In addition, a Heartland Orchestra polo is required.

8th grade Orchestra is offered to students who have successfully completed 7th grade Orchestra. Techniques will be learned that will prepare the students for high school orchestra. Students will participate in concerts, contests and festivals as an orchestra. Opportunities to perform solos, duets and small ensembles in a contest situation will be provided. Contest Orchestra will be composed of those students who perform with the musicianship and have the discipline required to represent their school in a competitive situation. Completion of this class is mandatory for enrollment in high school orchestra. In addition, a Heartland Orchestra polo is required.

#### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION (6,7,8)**

Students will learn the importance of basic stretching and exercise procedures and the rules and skills involved for various sports, games, and physical activities. Students will also be able to apply the skills and rules taught into an actual game situation while displaying team unity and sportsmanship. Each student will also improve their overall fitness level and be able to measure those improvements through periodic fitness assessments. In addition, athletic shoes are required

#### **PUBLICATIONS (8th grade by application and approval only)**

This year-long class advances your creativity and digital design skills related to graphic design, photography, and journalism. Students will serve as the school's news source through producing, editing, and designing the school's yearbook, announcement, and promotions. Qualities such as dependability, ability to make deadlines, and willingness to work on your own are important as all students will be responsible for writing and editing stories, creating layouts, taking quality photographs, conducting interviews, etc. Time outside of school will be required to cover school events and meet deadlines. Students will have complete access to any HMS event they have been assigned to cover during the school year.

#### **TECH 6**

6th grade students will learn the basic technological skills that will be necessary for success in school. Students will learn keyboarding and Google Suite. We will also be covering safe use of the Internet.

#### **VOCAL MUSIC (6,7,8)**

The emphasis of this class is group activities, exploration of music, and musical skills development. Music study will incorporate many styles of music, group "riser" choreography, instrumental accompaniments, use of synthesizer, and games to reinforce musical facts. The sixth graders participate in our district-wide Sixth Grade Vocal Music Festival during the semester, and the course includes additional performance opportunities.

In 7th & 8th grade, the overall goals are to expand and refine musical skills, while developing quality in performance. Emphasis is placed on sight-reading literacy and two and three-part harmony. Each class will have exposure to all music styles and periods. The choir performs in the OSSAA District choir contests. Additional opportunities are afforded by optional solo preparation and performance at District Contest, auditioning for Junior High All-State Choir and COCDA Honor Choir. At least four performances are scheduled during the year. In addition, a Heartland choral uniform is required.