



## 7th & 8th Grade Elective Course Descriptions 2026-2027

### **All Courses are Year Long Electives**

*Students placed in year long electives are enrolled in the course from August through June.*

#### **Art**

In this course, students will learn about the Elements of Art and Principles of Design. They will learn about and use a variety of media, including clay, oil pastels, paint, charcoal, colored pencils, markers as well as learn about a few artists and styles throughout the year and create their own masterpieces.

#### **Band Beginning/Intermediate**

In this year-long course, students choose an instrument to focus on and learn music reading, practice techniques, rehearsal etiquette, and perform a variety of music. Available instruments include Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Baritone, Tuba, and Percussion. Students gain experience by performing at various school concerts.

#### **Symphonic Band (Advanced Band)**

This year-long course is for students who already have experience reading music and playing an instrument. Students continue on their focus instrument and work on more challenging music, practice techniques, and perform a wider variety of music. Available instruments include Piccolo, Flute, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, .

#### **Computer Science**

An introduction to Computer Science to include the Code.org's Computer Science Fundamentals and Computer Science Discoveries curriculum. Topics covered **could** be the Problem Solving Process, Interactive Games and Animation, HTML/Web Design, an Introduction to Physical Computing with Microbits, Machine Learning (AI) and 3D modeling.

## **Dance Foundations (Scheitlin)**

In this course, students will explore dance styles from all around the world! Students will learn the unique history, cultural significance, and evolution of dance forms from diverse regions. Through hands-on experience, students will gain new skills in movement, creativity, and teamwork, all while having fun dancing to rhythms from every corner of the globe!

## **Film Studies: *Movie Mania: Film as Literature***

Lights, camera, analysis! In *Movie Mania: Film as Literature*, students explore how stories come to life on screen. By reading short stories and excerpts from classic literature and then watching film clips or adaptations, students will analyze suspense, character development, theme, and symbolism through both written and visual storytelling. Through discussions, creative projects, and short writing assignments, students will discover how filmmakers and authors use different techniques to tell powerful stories. If you love movies, storytelling, and thinking like a critic, this class is for you!

## **Health Careers I**

In this year-long academic elective science course, students will explore some of the knowledge, skills, procedures, and career options available in Health Care. Students will work in teams to diagnose mock patients, solve mock community disease outbreaks, and explore options for addressing health care needs around the world. Students who enjoy this course should consider the Health Science, Medical Technology, Sports Medicine, Biotechnology or Environmental Sustainability CTE Pathways offered in High School through GUHSD or Helix Charter HS.

## **Hip Hop - *Teacher Recommendation is required***

If you want to learn to dance or if you are already a pro - this is the class for you! By joining this class you become a member of Parkway Academy's Hip Hop Dance Crew! You will learn the fundamentals of hip hop dance and choreography and perform at Parkway Academy's events throughout the year which is part of your class grade! Additionally, this class focuses on leadership, teamwork, and building positive peer relationships. Parkway Academy's Hip Hop Dance Crew also gets the opportunity to attend high school dance programs and performances. *\*No Experience Required*

## **PLTW I (Project Lead The Way)**

In this course, students use the engineering design process to solve real-world problems and focus on building architecture design. Students will learn how to communicate ideas through sketches, 3D models, and basic mathematical models while working to research and develop solutions. Students will also explore how environmentally friendly design influences modern architecture and construction. Students learn about measuring, dimensioning, and sustainable building practices while designing affordable and green housing models. Using digital design software, students create and evaluate architectural designs that focus on efficiency, sustainability, and responsible use of resources. Later in the course, students will learn how cities develop and how planners design communities that are safe, efficient, and sustainable. Through studying history, maps, and real-world examples, students learn how transportation, housing, parks, and public spaces shape the places people live.

## **Theater 1**

This year-long course is for students who are interested in learning theatrical singing, acting, contemporary dancing, and basic prop/set building. Students perform at occasional events on campus and towards the end of the school year put on a full “Kids” level musical theater production.

## **Theater 2 (Advanced Theater)**

This year-long course is for students who have passed Theater 1 and/or have advanced experience in theatrical singing, acting, contemporary dancing, and basic prop/set building. Students perform at many events on campus and towards the end of the school year put on a full “Junior” level musical theater production.

## **Spanish 1**

In this year-long course, students will learn the basics of Spanish, explore the culture of the 21 Spanish-speaking countries, create cultural art and celebrate with traditional food and music.

**\*\*Please note:** Any students who would like to take Spanish in 8th grade must take Spanish 1 in 7th grade.

## **Spanish 2**

***\*must have completed Spanish 1***

In this year-long course, students will use basic Spanish to create presentations, projects and continue to explore culture and create cultural art and foods of the 21

Spanish-speaking countries. This course prepares students to take Spanish 3-4 at the high school level.

## **Sports Journalism**

Calling all sports fans! Do you love watching and reading about sports? Do you have a lot to say about your favorite teams? Then, Sports Journalism is the class for you. This elective will introduce you to writing, reporting, and producing sports-related media. You will analyze professional sports writing, write opinion pieces, and create multimedia sports content.

## **Leadership Electives**

***Applications and Teacher Recommendation required.***

***Applications can be picked up and turned in to the Front Office***

### ***ASB - application and teacher recommendation form required***

ASB - Associated Student Body - is a leadership class where the ASB students learn leadership skills such as teamwork, scheduling, organizing events and activities on campus like our lunch activities, dress up days and dances.

### ***Media - application and teacher recommendation form required***

Through weekly school broadcasts, students learn the basics of video production including filming, sound, storyboards and screenplays. Staff members pitch, write, film and produce packages developing leadership and project management skills.

### ***Yearbook - application and teacher recommendation form required***

This class is designed to develop students' skills in yearbook production by providing experiences in all areas of yearbook production. Students learn basic principles of photography, design as well as develop skills that include writing copy, captions and headlines.

### ***Teacher Aide - Application required, turn in to Teacher of choice***

Teacher Aides must have a 2.5+ GPA, no tardies and good standing in citizenship grades. These student leaders assist teachers and students in the classroom. Tasks include: organization, tutoring, grading, etc. Parent signature required, you will turn in your completed application to the teacher you are requesting to TA for.