

2024-2025

Stockbridge Middle School

Connections Course Description School Registration Form

Students/Parents may select one of the following classes under the Performing Arts Track and/or four classes under the Pathway Tracks. Additional connections may be randomly assigned to ensure student placement in two connection courses each semester. **(please see additional connection course offerings and supportive course offerings below.)**

PERFORMING ARTS TRACK

BAND

This performance-based class focuses on basic instrumental skill development and music reading. The goal of this class is to teach students the proper way to hold and play a brass, percussion, or woodwind instrument with the characteristic tone quality of the instrument. Students elect to play their instrument of choice with the band director's approval and recommendation. Course requirements may include concert performances outside of regular class hours, instrument rental, and fees. **(yearlong)**

CHORUS

This performance-based class focuses on learning to use the vocal instrument to create a healthy and pleasing sound. In addition to learning proper vocal production and technique, students learn music reading skills, sight singing skills, and performance skills. Students sing literature with and without accompaniment in up to three parts. Chorus offers opportunities for scholars to develop team building and leadership skills. Course requirements may include participation in concert performances outside of regular class hours & fees. **(yearlong)**

ORCHESTRA

This course is designed to offer students the opportunity to develop fundamental skills and advance as musicians through the performance of orchestral literature. Due to the performance nature of this course, students must be willing to attend all rehearsals and performances during and/or outside the school day. **(yearlong)**

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY 7, 8

This is an introductory course to music. Students have the opportunity to explore music's various functionalities in order to gain a deeper understanding of different types of instruments. Students are also able to foster or further appreciate various types of sounds and instruments. **(semester only)**

PIANO 7, 8

This course will enable students the ability to read, perform, and improvise melodies, variations, and accompaniments. Students compose and arrange music within specified guidelines. Students will also listen to, analyze, and describe music, and evaluate music and music performances while gaining an understanding of the relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts. **(semester only)**

PATHWAY TRACKS

VISUAL ARTS 6, 7, 8

This course allows students to develop their creative skills and knowledge as they become involved in a variety of visual activities. The many hands-on projects allow students to explore multimedia while applying various techniques to aesthetic problem solving. Students will learn many aspects of art including the production of art, art history, artists, aesthetics, and art criticism.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 6, 7, 8

Students will perform motor skills that are combined & used in specific game & performance situations. Refine and vary skills learned in elementary years using them to participate in activities associated with the development of an active & healthy lifestyle.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE 6, 7, 8

Students will acquire fundamental knowledge and skills necessary for success in any of the career pathways in Family and Consumer Science including Nutrition and Food, Consumer Services, Interior and Fashion Design, and Family Community and Global Leadership.

FOUNDATIONS COMPUTER PROGRAM

This course will provide an exploratory foundation in computer programming. Students will have opportunities to apply employability skills and to research possible career options in the information technology area. They will also complete many hands-on activities to build a strong foundation in computer coding.

FOUNDATIONS INTERACTIVE DESIGN

This course will provide an exploratory foundation in design and development of websites and games. Through integrated instructional activities, students will have opportunities to apply employability skills and to research possible career options in the information technology area. They will also complete many hands-on activities to build a strong foundation in designing interactive programs.

CONNECTIONS ENRICHMENT 6, 7, 8

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Students will be placed in the ELA connection course based on meeting two or more of the following criteria:

- SST documentation for reading/writing interventions
- Failing grade ELA
- MAP data
- Recent Milestone
- Teacher Recommendations

MATHEMATICS

Students will be placed in the Math connection course based on meeting two or more of the following criteria:

- SST documentation for math interventions
- Failing grade mathematics
- MAP data
- Recent Milestone
- Teacher recommendations

VISUAL ARTS/COMPREHENSIVE 1 (High School Course)

Offered in 8h grade, this course introduces art history, art criticism, aesthetic judgement and studio production. It emphasizes the ability to understand and elements and principles of design through a variety of media, processes and visual. Coursework explores master artworks for historical and significance.

SPANISH I (High School Course)

In this course students begin developing proficiency in the four basic skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing Spanish. It is a vocabulary-rich environment where survival skills are taught along with cultural information about the many Spanish-speaking countries. Activities include dialogue, role-playing, celebrations, films, videos, recordings, games, food study and other activities which provide an overview of the language.

** prerequisite teacher recommendation

SPANISH II (High School Course)

In this course students continue to develop proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing Spanish. It also continues to increase students' knowledge and appreciation of the diverse countries whose language they are learning. Emphasis is on a thorough tense study, grammatical structure, and language development.

*** prerequisite successful completion of Spanish I