# Abell Elective Descriptions

## Band

### Beginner Band

This is the first course in band, which introduces the necessary skills and fundamentals needed to play a musical instrument. The instruments taught are flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, bassoon, trumpet, french horn, trombone, baritone, and tuba and percussion. In this course, you will be introduced to music notation and how to read it, basic rhythmic patterns, how to analyze and evaluate music, as well as practice skills and techniques. No prior experience is necessary.

**Fee:** None

**Prerequisites:** None

### Advanced Band

This year-long course introduces “comprehensive musicianship” through music performance of challenging and varied literature. Students will continue to develop their knowledge of music theory, analyze and evaluate music, and use critical thinking skills to make refinements in their performance. Students will perform in at least four concerts a year. Individual growth and achievement are encouraged through solo and ensemble contests, All-City & All-Region bands, and private lessons.

**Fee:** None

**Prerequisites:** Beginner Band

### Jazz Band

The objective of this course is to play jazz through a variety of different styles of jazz music. These styles are blues, shuffle, ballad, samba, and rock. Students will play and improve upon improvisation through chordal changes and alternative forms, including: rhythm changes and blues form. Finally, members will prepare for performances and festivals.

**Fee:** None

**Prerequisites:** Beginner Band

## Career Technical Education (CTE)

### College and Career Readiness

Students will explore a broad range of career opportunities as well as college choices. During the course, students will work on their individual career portfolios including creating resumes, completing job applications, and writing effective cover letters. Students will be introduced to setting educational goals, exploring careers, researching college/universities, financial aid/scholarships, the 16 career clusters for high school, financial management, and entrepreneurship.

**Fee:** None

**Prerequisites:** Taken with Touch Systems

### Touch Systems

This course is designed to give students an opportunity to master the skills of keying and formatting documents while using the “touch” method of typing. Students will also learn how to format various documents using word processing software. Using proper technique, building speed, and achieving accuracy are areas that are emphasized along with basic computer concepts.

**Fee:** None

**Prerequisites:** Taken with College and Career Readiness

### Health

Topics are addressed that assist students in understanding a healthy lifestyle, including body systems, substance abuse, accident prevention, human sexuality, mental health, disease control, self-esteem, and decision-making.

**Fee:** None

**Prerequisites:** None

### Teen Leadership

This class provides students the leadership capabilities to succeed in higher education or in their future careers. Subjects discussed are: developing relationships, self confidence, emotional intelligence, self motivation, public speaking, dealing with peer pressure, personal relationships, and developing a vision. In addition, students study examples of public leaders.

**Fee:** None

**Prerequisites:** None

### Yearbook

Students are required to learn fundamental concepts of design and layout, digital photography, basic copywriting techniques, interviewing procedures, and deadline management. They also use current computer technology for page design, word processing, database management, and simple account.

**Fee:** None

**Prerequisites:** Chosen through application process

## Choir

### Choir 7: Treble (Girls) or Tenor/Bass (Boys)

This class is specifically for 7th graders who desire to sing and learn how to read music. There should be a heavy interest in improving one’s ability to sing and perform. Performances are a requirement of the choir program.

**Fee:** None

**Prerequisites:** None
### 8th Grade Tenor/Bass Choir
This class is for males who are in 8th grade who are seeking to continue their music education. Performances and after school practices are a requirement of the choir program.
**Fee:** None  
**Prerequisites:** One full year of music education (choir, band, orchestra), Audition with Choir Director

### Intermediate Treble Choir
This class is for females who are in 8th grade and who have auditioned through the director. Girls who have never sung before but like to sing will be placed in this class. Performances are a requirement of this choir program.
**Fee:** None  
**Prerequisites:** Audition with Choir Director

### Varsity Treble Choir
This student is not afraid to sing and has strong music reading, hand sign, and vocal techniques. This is for 8th grade girls only, but exceptions are made for singers who have had recent, private instructions from a vocal coach. Performances and after school practices are a requirement of the choir program.
**Fee:** None  
**Prerequisites:** One full year of music education (choir, band, orchestra), Audition with Choir Director

### Vocal Point
This is an auditioned, mixed (boys and girls) group of 8th grade students who sing pop music. Students must have participated in Choir during their 7th grade year and participated in all required choir events. Students must maintain passing grades in all classes to participate in this group. Performances are a requirement of the choir program.
**Fee:** None  
**Prerequisites:** Choir in 7th grade, Audition with Choir Director

### Language Other than English

#### Spanish I
Students will acquire listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills, and concepts at the novice level that result in the understanding of simple, routine situations. Students will also be made aware of concepts which result in the knowledge and awareness of the history and culture of another people.
**Fees:** None  
**HS Credit:** 7th Grade Prerequisites Only: 85 or above in English and passed the Reading STAAR

#### Spanish II
Students will continue to acquire listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills, and concepts at the novice level that result in the understanding of most routine questions, statements, and commands along with the ability to respond and to reproduce vocabulary sufficient to express themselves in everyday situations. Students will study the history and culture of another people within a range of different situations. Students will be aware of generalizations about how a language operates and the skills that result in the application of the language learning process to the study of other languages.
**Fees:** None  
**HS Credit:** 7th Grade Prerequisites: Passed Spanish I, FLES CBE, or Spanish I CBE

#### Spanish III Pre-AP
This is an advanced language course. The focus is on oral and written communication. History, literature and art are studied in this course and students have the opportunity to express their interpretations both orally and in writing. In depth grammar concepts, useful daily vocabulary, and multiple opportunities for oral production are incorporated.
**Fees:** None  
**HS Credit:** 7th Grade Prerequisites: Passed Spanish II with an 85 or higher or Spanish II

### Orchestra

#### Beginner Orchestra
This course is for first year or beginner students without any previous music experience. We will use the Orchestra Expression Book 1 in order to learn how to read music while playing a violin, viola, cello, or bass. Parents will need to rent or purchase an instrument except for the basses which are school owned instruments.
**Fees:** Purchase or rent instrument  
**Prerequisites:** None

#### Intermediate Orchestra
This course is for second year students that have taken strings in their 6th or 7th grade year. Students should be able to read music and use the second half of the Orchestra Expressions Book 1. Students should have their own instrument except for bass players. The music will be more challenging and prepare them for the Orchestra Expression Book 2.
**Fees:** None  
**Prerequisites:** One year of previous experience
## Advanced Orchestra

This course is for 7th grade students who have advanced into the Orchestra Expressions Book 2 and can read music fluently. Students have the ability to learn music on their own and are ready to go to UIL Contest.

**Fees:** None  
**Prerequisites:** Own instrument

## Concert Orchestra

Students enrolled in this course will have finished the Orchestra Expressions Book 2 and have UIL Experience. Students can sight read well, know all keys, and can play all scales in 2 octaves.

**Fees:** None  
**Prerequisites:** Taken orchestra in 6th and 7th grade

## Physical Education

### Athletic Skills

This is a class for the students who did not try out for a sport or did not make a team. In this class we will lift weights, work on the sport in season, and run. This class will focus on discipline and maintaining a safe, workout environment. This class is an intense workout session that is used to help build a better athlete.

**Fees:** Athletic Clothing Package  
**Prerequisites:** Completed MISO Physical

### Beginner Soccer Fundamentals

This course is designed to increase athletic performance and basic understanding of soccer concepts and fundamentals. This course will include soccer-specific skills including passing, receiving, trapping, shooting, dribbling, and control techniques. Students will learn specific soccer drills and work on skill development, strength training, conditioning, and speed training.

**Fees:** Athletic Clothing Package  
**Prerequisites:** Completed MISO Physical

### Boys and Girls' Athletics

This class is for that students that make a school team sport. As a student in Athletics, you will lift weights, run, and practice whichever sport is in season. Students are also held to a high academic and behavior standard. In order to be an eligible athlete, you must maintain a passing grade throughout each 6 weeks and attend before or after school practices. Boys will have the opportunity to try out for football, basketball, or track and field, and girls will have the opportunity to try out for volleyball, basketball, or track and field.

**Fees:** None  
**Prerequisites:** Completed MISO Physical

### Cheerleading

This class is an extension of mandatory cheer practice. We will exercise and go over our routines during this period as if it was a regularly scheduled practice. When we do not practice, we will do a combination of other cheerleading responsibilities, including preparing for pep rallies/games, team building activities, as well as leadership geared assignments.

**Fees:** Cheerleading Equipment and Camp  
**Prerequisites:** Earning a spot on the squad through tryouts

### Group Fitness

This class is designed to improve all levels of fitness, flexibility, muscular strength, and cardiovascular endurance. It will include activities such as: dancing, circuit training, weight lifting, yoga, cheerleading, tabatas, kickboxing, zumba, and running.

**Fees:** None  
**Prerequisites:** None

### Physical Education

The physical education class is one where students learn different fundamentals of various sports, work out, learn to love being active, play games, and find out ways to enhance their lives. This class is designed to engage and encourage movement and the enjoyment of working with others.

**Fees:** None  
**Prerequisites:** None

### Swimming & Diving

Students will need to be dropped off at the COM Center for practice, and a district bus will take them to school. Students will engage in dryland workouts and then will participate in water workouts. Swimmers will learn the four competitive strokes, turns, and starts. Divers will be taught the 6 diving positions with feet and head entries. Students will participate in meets each semester.

**Fees:** Swimwear  
**Prerequisites:** Completed MISO Physical & Tryouts completed at the start of each semester

### Tennis

Students will learn and develop their skills to play tennis. No prior experience is required. Students will have after school practice twice a week. Students will compete in tennis tournaments as a team in the fall and spring.

**Fees:** Athletic Clothing Package (optional)  
**Prerequisites:** Completed MISO Physical
### Destination Imagination Challenge Program  
**7th & 8th Grade**

This class is a hands-on system of learning that fosters students’ creativity, curiosity, and courage through academic challenges. Our challenges blend STEM education with the arts and social entrepreneurship. Students who participate will learn invaluable 21st century skills, as well as: patience, flexibility, ethics, respect for others and their ideas, and the collaborative, problem solving process. This a competitive team.

**Fees:** None  
**Prerequisites:** None

### Gateway Tech: Design and Modeling  
**7th Grade**

This is a part of Project Lead the Way. Students discover the design process and develop an understanding of the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They are then challenged and empowered to use and apply what they've learned to create models to address real world problems. Students should enjoy drawing, building, computer design, and puzzle solving.

**Fees:** None  
**Prerequisites:** Must be GT identified or in at least one pre-AP course

### Gateway Tech: Green Architecture  
**8th Grade**

This is a part of Project Lead the Way. Today's students have grown up in an age of "green" choices. In this class, students learn how to apply this concept to the field of architecture sustainability as they design and build structures. If you like drawing, building, computer design, or solving problems, then this class is for you.

**Fees:** None  
**Prerequisites:** Must be GT identified or in at least one pre-AP course

### Robotics  
**7th & 8th Grade**

Are you creative, innovative and love a challenge? Abell robotics is for you. We design, building and program robots. Our team has qualified for state competitions for the last six years. Abell robotics has brought home many top ten finishes and one state title. Come be part of the best team.

**Fee:** $20  
**Prerequisites:** Completed application with recommendations, Passed both the Math and Science STAAR

### Theatre Arts

### Introduction to Speech and Drama  
**7th and 8th Grade**

This is a basic introduction to Theatre where students will learn vocabulary, audience etiquette, and fundamental acting techniques. This course also includes an introduction to Speech and the basic structures of composing speeches and participating in debates. There is a focus on both vocabulary and presentation style.

**Fee:** $25  
**Prerequisites:** None

### Experienced Speech & Drama/ Production  
**8th Grade**

This class continues to build on the skills learned in Introduction to Speech and Drama. It incorporates already understood vocabulary, stage directions, vocal concepts, and blocking with a focus on presentation.

**Fee:** $25  
**Prerequisites:** Intro to Speech & Drama or other acting or speech classes

### Visual Arts

### Ceramics  
**7th & 8th Grade**

An in depth investigation of the art of handbuilding with clay. The science of each stage of clay will be discussed and executed. Different glazing techniques will also be explored. (This is NOT a wheel throwing class)

**District Mandatory Art Fee:** $25/semester  
**Prerequisites:** None

### Intro to Art  
**7th Grade**

This is an introductory class to the field of Visual Arts which covers the basic elements of art, principles of art, art techniques, and Art History. Students are expected to participate in taking notes and will be exposed to a variety of media which can include: colored pencils, markers, graphite, charcoal, watercolor, ceramics, paper mache, paper sculpture, knitting, weaving, jewelry making, printmaking, and found object sculptures.

**District Mandatory Art Fee:** $25/semester  
**Prerequisites:** None

### Art I  
**8th Grade**

This class provides the students an opportunity to develop skills in design, drawing, painting, printmaking, and sculpture. It includes four basic strands: perception, creative expression/performance; historical/cultural heritage; and critical evaluation. These strands provide unifying structures for organizing the knowledge and skills students are expected to acquire. Students will be required to use memory, imagination, and real life objects/experiences as sources for art work.

**District Mandatory Art Fee:** $25/semester  
**HS Credit**  
**Prerequisites:** None