

2021-2022 Abell Elective Course Descriptions



Physical Education

Physical Education (7th & 8th): Students learn different fundamentals of various sports, work out, and play games. This class is designed to engage and encourage movement and the enjoyment of working with others.

Football Athletics (7th & 8th): This class is for students who desire to play football. If a student wishes to only tryout for basketball and/or track, the student should select Strength and Conditioning. Students will lift weights, run, and practice football fundamentals. Students will participate in before or after school practices in addition to the athletic period. Students must maintain passing grades throughout each six weeks and attend after school practices to be eligible to play. Athletes who do not meet these requirements will be removed from athletics. After football season, football athletes will have the opportunity to tryout for basketball, track and field and soccer.

Note: Requires athletic clothing package and 2021-2022 MISD physical

Girls Athletics (7th & 8th): Girls athletics is for students who desire to tryout for volleyball, basketball, or track and field. If you do not make a team, you will participate in our offseason group workout. Students will lift weights, run, and participate in off season or the in season sport. Athletes are held to a high academic and behavior standard. Students will participate in before or after school practice in addition to the athletic period. Students must maintain a passing grade throughout each six weeks and attend before or after school practices to be eligible. Athletes who do not meet these requirements will be removed from athletics.

Note: Requires athletic clothing package and 2021-2022 MISD physical

Strength and Conditioning (7th & 8th): This class is for students who want the athletic experience. It is also for students who do not want to play football but want to tryout for basketball or track. 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 will help build a better athlete.

Note: Requires athletic clothing package and 2021-2022 MISD physical

Tennis (7th & 8th): 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 team tennis tournaments in the fall and spring.

Note: Requires 2021-2022 MISD physical

Swimming & Diving (7th & 8th): Students must tryout and if selected, will have an additional scheduled course. Students need to be dropped off at 7am at the COM Center for practice and a district bus will take them to school. Students will engage in dry-land workouts and then will participate in water workouts. Swimmers will learn the four competitive strokes, turns, and starts. Divers will be taught the six diving positions with feet and head entries. Students will participate in meets each semester.

Note: Requires swimwear and 2021-2022 MISD physical

Music

Beginning Band (7th & 8th): 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, 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.

Fee: Instrument Rental or Purchase

Advanced Band (8th): This year-long course introduces “comprehensive musicianship” through the 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.

Prerequisite: Beginner Band

Choir (7th & 8th): This class is for students who desire to sing and learn how to read music. There should be a strong interest in improving one’s ability to sing and perform. Practices outside of the regular school day and performances are a requirement.

Music Appreciation (7th & 8th): This is an introductory course to music. Students will explore music’s various functionalities in order to gain a deeper understanding and appreciation for all types of music. The course begins by examining basic music literacy and core musical elements such as melody, rhythm, harmony, form, and texture.

Orchestra (7th & 8th): Beginning orchestra will use the *Orchestra Expression Book One* in order to learn how to read music while playing a violin, viola, cello, or bass. Advanced Orchestra will be more challenging and will use the *Orchestra Expression Book Two*.

Fee: Instrument Rental or purchase except for school owned basses used in Orchestra

Career and Technical Education (CTE)

College & Career Readiness (7th & 8th): 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 and universities, financial aid and scholarships, the 16 career clusters for high school, financial management, and entrepreneurship.

Intro to Robotics/Design & Modeling (7th) – Project Lead the Way: In the first semester, students use the engineering and design process to design, build and program robots. This class utilizes the Lego EV3 system and Mindstorm software. This class does not participate in competition. Student is required to be in at least one EAS course. In the second semester, the Design and Modeling class challenges and empowers students 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.

Note: Student must be in at least one EAS course

2021-2022 Abell Elective Course Descriptions

Medical Detectives/Intro to Robotics (8th) – Project Lead the Way: In the first semester, Medical Detectives students use the concepts of forensic science and medical understandings of how disease spreads to solve problems about medical puzzles by PLTW. They will understand how to take medical data from vital signs, and from that be able to build into problem solving by interpreting data given to them. Students are challenged for solving mysteries. In the second semester, Intro to Robotics students use the engineering and design process to design, build and program robots. This class utilizes the Lego EV3 system and Mindstorm software. This class does not participate in competition. **Note: Student must be in at least one EAS course**

Fine Arts

Introduction to Theatre Arts (7th & 8th): This is a basic introduction to theatre where students will learn vocabulary, audience etiquette, and fundamental acting techniques. This course also includes a brief introduction to speech. There is a focus on both vocabulary and class performance. **Fee: \$25/year**

Advanced Theatre Arts (8th): This class continues to build off the skills learned in Introduction to Theatre Arts. It incorporates already understood vocabulary, stage directions, vocal concepts, and blocking with a focus on presentation including participation in the One Act Play Competition. **Prerequisite: Introduction to Theatre Arts Fee: \$25/year**

Intro to Art (7th & 8th): 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. **Fee: \$50/year**

Experienced Art (8th): 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. **Prerequisite: Intro to Art Fee: \$25/year**

Language Other than English (LOTE)

Spanish I (7th & 8th): **(High School Credit Course)* 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 other people.

***Note: For 7th graders –** Spanish I requires an 85 or higher in 6th grade English and must pass the 6th grade Reading STAAR. Priority placement for Spanish 1 is given to 8th grade students.

Spanish II (7th & 8th): **(High School Credit Course)* 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 other people within a range of different situations. **Prerequisite: Spanish I credit**

EAS Spanish III (8th): **(High School Credit Course)* 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. **Prerequisite: Spanish II Credit**

Additional Electives

Health (7th & 8th): 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.

Speech Communications (7th & 8th): Students will blend written and oral communication. They will write, organize, prepare, and deliver quality speeches. Students will persuade, inspire, inform, and engage an audience through public speaking.

Teen Leadership (7th & 8th): 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, student will volunteer throughout the year in a variety of educational activities. Students will study examples of public leaders and participate in a variety of speeches and projects.

Courses Requiring Application

Investigation STEM Careers (7th & 8th): Are you creative, innovative, and love a challenge? Abell robotics is for you. We design, build, 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!

Yearbook (7th & 8th): 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.