



Woodland Acres Middle School

STUDENT COURSE SELECTION 2020-2021



Elective Courses by Grade Level

6th Grade: **Required Courses:** ELAR, Math, Science, So. Studies (4)

7th Grade: **Required Courses:** ELAR, Math, Math Figures, Science,
So. Studies, Think Tank (6)

8th Grade: **Required Courses:** CCR, ELAR, Math or Algebra, Science,
So. Studies (5)

Electives:

Art	Non Varsity Choir
Athletics	PE
Band	Pre-Athletics
Book Club	Spanish I, Spanish II, Spanish NS (HS Credit)
Choir	STEM
CT Puzzles/Games	Symphonic Band (Requires Director's approval)
Digital Art & Animation (HS Credit)	Technology Literacy
Healthy Mind & Body	Touch Data (HS Credit)
History Alive	Varsity Choir (Requires Director's approval)
History Through Video	Video Game Design
Imaginative Writing	Wind Ensemble Band (Requires Director's approval)
Intro to Podcasting	Zoology
Intro to Spanish	
LOTC	
Music in Motion	

Required Electives:

ESL (English as a Second Language)
Language Enrichment
Math Plus
Reading Plus

Electives Course Descriptions

Art- This course is designed to give students a basic understanding and appreciation for art. Students will learn to appreciate, create and participate in visual art. Students will participate in activities that emphasize skill development and the development of the creative thought process.

Beginner Band 6th Grade (Requires Director's Approval)- Students will be placed on instruments by the band directors through an "instrument interview" that allows the directors to determine which instrument the student will most likely be successful on. Throughout the year, students will learn how to read music, develop a basic understanding of music theory and history, proper rehearsal/concert etiquette, and how to play their instrument with correct breath support, posture, body position, and characteristic tone.

Beginner's Chorus 6th Grade- Students enrolled in this course will learn EVERYTHING about music, including fundamental singing techniques, notation, theory, sight-singing, preparing music, concert etiquette and preparation, and team building. This is a great class for kids who want to build their confidence and self-esteem!

Book Club- This course promotes a love for literature and establishes a positive attitude towards reading. Students are encouraged to reflect on readings and invited to participate in natural discussions that lead to student inquiry and critical thinking.

Boys Chorus, NON VARSITY- This beginner course will consist of 7/8th grade males and will emphasis on training the male type voice. Students will learn team building skills and engage in activities that promote singing.

Boy's Chorus, VARSITY (Requires Director's Approval)- This is an auditioned group of 7/8th grade singers usually with one full year of WAMS choir experience. Students will participate in All-Region Choir, UIL Concert and Sight-Reading, Solo and Ensemble, and will have more individual responsibility for their musical learning.

Concert Band (Requires Director's Approval)- This course is designed for 7th and 8th grade students to build and strengthen their fundamentals as both individual musicians and part of an ensemble. Students in this band will solidify instrumental technique and practice strategies to help them become more successful, and they will work on filling in any gaps in their musical knowledge.

Digital Arts & Animation- In this course, students will learn the technical aspects of computer generated imagery and digital design programs (Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator) as well as the basic design principles needed.

Girls Chorus, NON VARSITY- This beginner course will consist of 7/8th grade females who are learning about singing for the first time or who want to explore their singing ability.

Girl's Chorus, VARSITY (Requires Director's Approval)- This is an auditioned group of 7/8th grade singers usually with one full year of WAMS choir experience. Students will participate in All-Region Choir, UIL Concert and Sight-Reading, Solo and Ensemble, and will have more individual responsibility for their musical learning.

History Alive- This course will consist of creating posters, diagrams, projects, and even dress up as a character to show how history is still alive today and how it relates to our everyday lives. Students will create, draw, use technology, and their own bodies, as projects, to show important people and events that have shaped our lives and that have existed both in American history and world history.

Healthy Mind & Body- This course promotes healthy mind and bodies by teaching life-skills, social competencies, food literacy, and incorporating cooking ideas, fitness activities, and group discussions on various topics such as anger management techniques and coping strategies.

History through video- This course covers various topics of history that are meaningful yet not covered in middle school including 9/11 and the holocaust. Topics will be explored, analyzed and discussed through videos and movies.

Imaginative Writing- This writing course centers around the creative aspects of writing. Students will explore the genre of creative writing, and will write their own texts based upon those we read in class. (Poetry, flash fiction, horror, short story, prose, etc.).

Introduction to Podcasting- This course will allow students to listen to chosen podcasts then collaborate and have small group discussions about the episodes they listened to. Students will then have the opportunity to write out scripts for their own personal podcasts.

LOTC (Leadership Officer Training Corps)- This course will teach Leadership and Citizenship. The course is not connected to the military and does not require students to complete any compulsory service. Exercises covered in LOTC include Marching and Drills, Map Reading, American Hero's, Citizenships, Patriotism, and History of the American Flag and the National Anthem.

PALS (Peer Assistance Leadership and Service- This course focuses on providing middle school students with effective training practices in leadership, mentoring and provides these students with volunteering opportunities in the school and the community.

Pre-Athletics (Requires Coach's Approval)- This 6th grade course will teach basic physical education fundamentals and skills necessary to help students prepare to successfully compete in 7th grade athletics.

Spanish for Native Speakers (Requires Teacher's Approval)- (8th Grade Only) Intended for those students who already speak and understand Spanish because it is taught entirely in Spanish. Emphasis is placed on reading and writing. Prerequisite: Pass exam to enter course with 75% mastery.

SPANISH I (7th/8th Grade) This course enables students to learn Spanish pronunciation, acquire a vocabulary sufficient for simple conversations, practice basic structure patterns, and become aware of Spanish culture. With successful completion of this year long course, students could earn one-year foreign language, high school credit.

Spanish II- (8th Grade) This course is for students who have successfully completed Spanish I are looking to earn an additional foreign language, high school credit.

STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering and Math- This course integrates concepts that are usually taught as separate subjects and emphasizes the application of knowledge to real-life situations.

Symphonic Band (Requires Director's Approval)- This course is for 7th and 8th grade students that can already read music, create characteristic tones on their instruments, have a solid understanding of technique on their instrument, and are knowledgeable enough to prepare music outside of the classroom.

Technology Literacy- This technology course is an entry-level computer class that focuses on proper typing skills.

Touch Systems Data Entry- In this course, students apply technical skills to address business applications of emerging technologies. Students enhance reading, writing, computing, communication, and reasoning skills and apply them to the business environment. Successful completion of this course offers a full one-year high school credit.

Wind Ensemble (Requires Director's Approval)- This course is the top-performing ensemble band and is made up of the highest performing 7th and 8th grade band students. Members of this group exhibit a strong understanding of music notation, sight-reading, high quality tone production, intonation, and an eagerness to perform difficult music and continuously work on improving their skills in and outside of the classroom.

Zoology This course discusses the branch of biology that deals with animals and animal life. Students will study zoology through readings, videos, online activities, PBLs and dissection. Students will study the main branches of the animal kingdom including mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds, insects and fish as well as others. They will study animal habitats, behaviors, diets and adaptations. Special studies on endangered species, classification, mimicry/camouflage, ecosystems and food webs will be conducted.