

# 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE YEAR-LONG ELECTIVE COURSES

## SAGEWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL 2009/2010

In addition to the required courses, 8<sup>th</sup> Graders have two periods in the day to take courses of their choice. This is a time for students to explore a wide range of interests. The elective courses will:

- \*\*\*provide a variety of "hands on" and practical life experiences.
- \*\*\*provide experiences that complement and enrich the overall curriculum.
- \*\*\*allow students to identify areas of interest for continued study and development.

### **A YEAR-LONG COURSE IS THE ENTIRE SCHOOL YEAR OR 36 WEEKS.**

Some year-long courses may be offered only one period in the day and may conflict with other elective choices. Year-long courses will take priority in scheduling electives. You will be contacted and asked to make a choice if a conflict arises.

All course offerings are subject to modifications or deletions based upon student enrollment figures and teacher availability. Teachers are hired based on student selections. Please choose carefully. Selections are considered final for the year.

### **8<sup>th</sup> GRADE BAND**

**Prerequisite:** Two years' experience playing a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument.

This course is for intermediate level student musicians with a primary emphasis on continued skill development, tone quality, music reading skills and overall musicianship. Students are required to perform in several concerts during the school year. **Expenses:** All percussionists pay a fee per semester. Contact the director regarding rental availability of larger WIND instruments; students provide their own smaller WIND instruments.

### **STRING ORCHESTRA** (Violin, Viola, Cello, String Bass)

This class focuses on varied levels of playing skills and ensemble experience. Students participate in several performances each year. Performances and individual practice are important grade requirements. Anyone who wishes to begin learning a string instrument should consult the teacher before beginning the school session. **Expenses:** Contact the director regarding rental availability of larger instruments; students provide their own smaller instruments.

### **CONCERT CHOIR**

This course may be taken for the entire year OR for one semester only.

Concert choir is an exciting class for experienced, as well as, inexperienced singers. Learn about good singing techniques, different styles of music and basic music reading. Have fun learning about and making music with your friends, in a relaxing class with minimal homework.

### **SELECT TREBLE CHOIR**

**Prerequisite:** Audition with SGMS director.

This choir is open to 8th graders only by audition. The Choir performs at festivals and choral competitions. This choir at Sagewood has a reputation of being one of the finest middle school vocal ensembles in the state.

### **FOREIGN LANGUAGES**

World language is an academic elective that requires as much studying and diligence as a core class. The student will need to study approximately 15 minutes a night and be prepared for major assessments in each standard area (reading, writing, speaking, listening and culture). It is important to know that if the student does not have an A or a B by the end of the year; he or she will not be able to proceed to the next language level. It is crucial that the student understand the material thoroughly before moving on.

**1A courses** are designed for students who have no previous experience in World Languages. Students will learn the skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing in the target language and will be exposed to the cultures of countries where the language is spoken. Students will learn these four skills through various activities such as partner work, games, projects, singing and more! NOTE: Eighth graders completing 1A will enroll in a Level 1 class at Ponderosa, which means they will experience approximately one semester of review. This review will cover what was learned in 1A at Sagewood. **Students may choose from:**

**French 1A**  
**German 1A**  
**Spanish 1A**

**1B courses** are a continuation of 1A with a more intensive curriculum. The student who completes 1A and 1B successfully will be ready to enter into Level 2 classes at the high school. **In order to enroll in a 1B course, a student must have completed 1A and meet proficiency (an A or a B) in the Foreign Language Standards.** **Students may choose from:**

**French 1B**  
**German 1B**  
**Spanish 1B**

**ELECTRONIC PUBLISHING-Internet Permission is required for this class.**

This class focuses on advanced applied computer skills related to publishing text, visual and video projects for a wide audience. Students will learn elements of journalistic publishing including writing, page layout and design, graphic design, photography and video editing. Year long projects include news casting and a school newspaper. The final product of this class is the school Yearbook and DVD. Students electing this class should have previous computer classes or experience, the ability to work independently, the ability to complete projects on deadline, possess a strong sense of responsibility and be able to produce high quality projects. An interest in scholastic journalism is expected. **Students will be expected to have internet permission and complete an Electronic Publications application that includes the recommendation of two teachers.**

### **SPECIAL EDUCATION PEER PARTNER**

**Prerequisite:** Students will be selected by formal application and teacher recommendation, and may be interviewed. Students will be asked to work with students with varying abilities in the Significant Special Needs classroom and/or the regular education classrooms.

APPLICATIONS FOR PEER PARTNER ARE AVAILABLE IN THE COUNSELING OFFICE. FOLLOW DIRECTIONS CAREFULLY ON THE APPLICATION FOR TURN-IN DATE AND LOCATION. LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.