VSC)

MESA VALLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

6-8th Grade Class Descriptions 2023-2024

Each class meets one <u>or</u> two days a week in person **on Tuesdays and Thursdays** and includes work in between class days that **must be documented and will require parental oversight**. Each class is designed to provide a student with the equivalent of 72 hours of instruction during a semester (4 hours a week for 18 weeks). Specifics about the how this time is allocated, assignment requirements, etc. for each class is provided by the teacher at the beginning of the class. Most classes require that tests be taken during a separate session in the MVCS Test Lab (offered at various times throughout the week on a drop-in basis). Full-time students take ELA, math, science, social studies, and 1-2 additional classes of their choice. Part-time students take ELA and math (although they may substitute a D51 crossover class in any subject for either of those).

- English Language Arts (ELA) 6, 7, & 8: These two-day-a-week blended learning classes address all Colorado Academic Standards for ELA at each grade level. Students read a variety of literature (novels, short stories, poetry) and non-fiction selections, and write with every unit. Students also give at least one individual presentation during the year. Vocabulary skills (with an emphasis on Greek & Latin word parts) and grammar are covered throughout the year. These classes run for both semesters.
- Math 6, 7, & 8: These two-day-a-week blended learning classes address all Colorado Academic Standards for mathematics at each grade level. Classes use the Saxon Math Course 1, 2, or 3 curricula (depending on grade). Additional math Lab attendance is required for students with a grade of C or less. These classes run for both semesters.
- **Math Lab 6-8:** This time is available two days a week and is used to help students struggling with concepts in Math 6, 7, or 8. Attendance is required for students with a grade of C or less, but students with higher grades are also welcome to drop in as needed. This is not a "class" which appears on student schedules or receives a grade.
- **Social Studies 6, 7, & 8:** These one-day-a-week blended learning classes use the online curriculum (in Edgenuity or CDLS) which is aligned to Colorado Academic Standards in social studies for each grade. Students work through the curriculum primarily at home and also participate in on-site time with fellow students and the teacher to reinforce key concepts, have discussions, engage in activities, and do group projects to extend learning. This class runs for both semesters.
- Science 6, 7, & 8: These one-day-a-week blended learning classes use the online curriculum (in Edgenuity or CDLS) which is aligned to Colorado Academic Standards in science for each grade. Students work through the curriculum primarily at home and also participate in on-site time with fellow students and the teacher to reinforce key concepts, have discussions, engage in activities, and do group projects to extend learning. This class runs for both semesters.
- **Piano 6-8:** This two-day-a-week class allows students to begin or continue their acquaintance with piano keyboarding. Students work at their own pace through exercises assigned individually in the online Piano Marvel platform. Additionally, students are introduced to general music and theory concepts relevant to their musical level. At home, students log practice time and complete music theory or other assignments. This class is a semester long and may be taken once a year.
- **Art 6-8:** In this two-day-a-week course, students explore various media and techniques to plan and create original works of art, both 2- and 3-D. Work is completed both on-site and at home. Though this class touches upon various periods in art history, emphasis is placed on understanding the Elements of Art as a basis for composition. Students not only expand their visual arts knowledge and skills, but critically evaluate their own work as well as that of others. This class is a semester long and may be taken once each year.
- **PE Connection:** Students in this one-day-a-week class are enrolled in one of the following semester-long areas of focus. Besides engaging with the topics below, students must complete at least three hours of physical activity

per week, including components of cardio, strength, and flexibility training. In addition to their weekly selfchosen activities, some of the courses include skills assignments in which students practice specific physical skills, then submit video assignments so that the instructor can provide feedback and evaluate competency. Activities for each class do not require specialized equipment, though students may use some if it is available. Each semester begins with a fitness assessment, then proceeds through the following topics:

- **Fitness Basics 1**—exercise programming, exercise technique, components of fitness, principles of exercise, heart rate & intensity, skill vs health, and benefits of fitness.
- **Fitness Basics 2**—FITT principles, safety & injuries, sports (strategy, team sports, individual sports, cross training), nutrition and drugs.
- Intro to Group Sports 1—exercise safely, team sports, game strategy, soccer principles/skills, and basketball principles/skills.
- Intro to Group Sports 2—sports culture, nutrition, water sports, baseball/softball principles/skills, and volleyball principles/skills.
- Intro to Individual Sports 1—movement & safety, intro to sports (individual/team), walking/hiking, running, dance, and yoga.
- Intro to Individual Sports 2—fitness & nutrition principles, cycling, strength training, waters sports, crosstraining, and agility.

This class is a semester long and may be taken each semester, with a different focus each time.

Computer Apps 6-8: This one-day-a-week class uses an online curriculum which students work through primarily at home, then participate in on-site time with fellow students and the teacher to reinforce key concepts, have discussions, participate in activities, and do group projects to extend learning. Students learn how to use web-based productivity and collaboration tools, such as G Suite by Google Cloud to create word processing documents, spreadsheets, emails, surveys and form, personal budgets, invitations, digital citizenship and safety. Priority enrollment is given to 8th grade students. This class is scheduled for a semester in the fall, and all students must take it prior to 9th grade.

Online Class Connection: Students may enroll in an online elective class in the Edgenuity or CDLS platform. Students work through the curriculum primarily at home with a one-day-a-week on-site time with a teacher to verify progress, assess comprehension, discuss learning goals, and extend learning. Students are limited to taking 1 online class of this type each semester. Available classes are: Coding, Digital Art & Design, Journalism, and Photography. Each class has two semesters of content; students may take a class on the same or a different topic each semester.

Independent Study Connection: This elective class is designed to cover a topic of interest to the student. Available independent study classes are: World Language, Dance, Drama/Theatre, Music, Technical Education, Logic, and Life Skills (IEP students only); the scope of the specific class will be further refined through the Independent Study Class Proposal (ISCP) process. Prior to the semester, the student's parent submits an ISCP form which includes the class description, curriculum, and outlines a plan for working through measurable course goals week by week. A committee reviews all ISCPs and may require alterations prior to approval; ISCPs that do not meet the committee's approval criteria will be denied. Students work through the course primarily at home with a one-day-a-week on-site time with a teacher to verify progress, assess comprehension, discuss learning goals, extend learning, and interact with peers. Costs for this class option (books, materials, fees, etc.) are the responsibility of the parent. Students are limited to taking 1 independent study class at a time. This class is a semester long and students may take a class each semester.

D51 Crossover Class: Full-time students may take one or two classes in any subject at their traditional D51 neighborhood middle school, provided that it fits their schedule, all of their core classes are covered (math, ELA, science, and social studies), and there is space available at the crossover school. Classes may be taken in any subject area. Part-time students may take a class in any subject as a substitute for either their ELA or math class at MVCS.

Study Hall: Some students must stay on-site while not in class, particularly if the student has a sibling on-site taking a class during a period the student does not have one scheduled. Such students are enrolled in a monitored study hall which is not a credit-bearing class, and it does not count as one of their electives. Students struggling to complete work at home may be required to enroll to provide a structured study environment. Study hall is offered during every period of the day on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Students are expected to bring work to complete quietly; they are not allowed to play electronic games or use social media/YouTube. Reading is encouraged if there is no schoolwork to complete. Attendance is taken and absences must be excused by a parent as for any other class.