

MOUNT HOREB MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTION BOOK 2023-2024 School Year

The following information gives descriptions of MHMS elective courses for the 2023-2024 school year.

2D Art (8th Grade only) [Art Description Video \(includes 2D and 3D\)](#)

This art class focuses on most of the two-dimensional mediums that we use in art. Working both collaboratively and independently on projects 8th grade students in this class get the chance to explore many different mediums to work with in art to explore drawing, painting, printmaking, watercolor, digital art, and photography. This course will challenge the ideas of each student as they begin to explore the world around them, and how we each interact within it.

3D Art (8th Grade only)

This art class focuses on most of the three-dimensional mediums that we use in art. Each student will begin to explore many different types of materials including clay, wire, wood, glass, and plaster to help them look at the world around them differently. They will each work through the design process of creating objects to interact with as well as for display. Though mostly independent work, there will also be times to work collaboratively as well.

Family and Consumer Sciences - Life Designs (8th Grade only)

[FCS Description Video \(includes Life Designs and Teen Cuisine\)](#)

Do you enjoy creating? This course explores fashion and interior design as well as the field of education and child development. Showcase your style by designing projects such as a dream house, fashion and athletic shoe sketches, how to use color in inspiring ways, and construct a sewing project geared for teens. Students will be asked to purchase some supplies. There will also be several opportunities to use the kitchen labs. Tap into your creativity by experiencing first-hand how educators design learning so children reach their full potential. Develop lifelong leadership skills by tutoring 3rd grade students at the Intermediate Center one class period every other week. Students also take part in a collaborative project with kindergarten students.

Family and Consumer Sciences - Teen Cuisine (8th Grade only)

This course explores the areas of culinary arts, building on basic knowledge of nutrition and cooking skills. It is geared to teens who want to build on career-based skills and knowledge in cooking, baking, and decorating with food. There will be approximately 20 food labs plus several professional chef demonstrations. Student experiences will include becoming entrepreneurs by designing and creating a food truck business, taking a field trip to a local restaurant, exploring global and regional foods, making special occasion foods, decorating techniques, taste testing foods, and taking ownership of eating habits.

French (7th and 8th Grade) [French Course Description Video](#)

This class is a two-year French I course (if chosen in 7th and 8th grade). Students learn through listening and telling stories, playing games, listening to popular music and talking about themselves! The successful completion of this course is a part of becoming eligible to enroll in French II as a ninth grade student. Students that do not take the second year of French I as an eighth grade student and wish to continue in the language in high school will need to enroll in French I at the high school.

Integrated Studies (8th Grade only) [Integrated Studies Description Video](#)

This class is a one semester course offered to eighth grade students. The class may be repeated second semester. Based on teacher availability, the students may participate in two or more of these topics.

- **Economics:** This is an introduction to the concept of investing in the stock market. You will learn about the basic economic concepts related to the stock market such as how and why the market fluctuates. You will also research a number of companies and decide which would be the best to invest in. You will then follow those companies for one semester and be responsible for submitting a weekly report on your companies' progress. At the conclusion, you will submit a quarterly report of your statistics.
- **Engineering:** This course deals with problem-solving as it relates to building projects such as a Plush Pet Palace, Maximizing Space, and Towers of Culver's Straws. This course also deals with construction problems like Miniature Golf Courses, Paper Airplanes, and Line Design. This course combines math, science, and writing skills.
- **Video Editing and Publishing:** This course revolves around the production phase of a segment of *The Viking Show*. Students will develop a script, film, edit, and submit their segment to the teacher. Students will learn to work with WeVideo, create ChromaKey (green screen) backgrounds, overlay audio effects into their video productions, and learn to airdrop their piece to combine it with other student segments.
- **Writing and Publishing:** Students will be responsible for the writing of a column that will be published in the school newspaper. You will be assigned a weekly feature that will be researched, submitted for editing, revised, and completed in a finished version. Your article will be given strict guidelines as to size, format, and appropriateness for the reading audience.
- **Passion Projects:** Students will have nine weeks (one quarter) to explore an interest they have or would like to learn more about. Past projects have included family genealogy, planning and budgeting for a deer food plot, Japanese anime, and writing a Star Wars novella. Students will document their progress weekly and will share their projects with the class at the end of the unit.
- **Science in Popular Culture:** this nine-week course focuses on how science and scientists are portrayed in movies and TV shows. We will watch several films and discuss their themes and scientific accuracy. Hands-on activities, such as building solar ovens and an egg drop challenge, are tied to our viewing.
- **Coding:** Coding, sometimes called computer programming, is how we communicate with computers. Code tells a computer what actions to take, and writing code is like writing a set of instructions. We'll "scratch" the surface with coding by using Scratch to create games, stories, animations, and more.

Physical Fitness and Health (8th Grade only) [Phys / Fit Description Video](#)

Do you want to be fit? In Physical Fitness, students will be VERY active using a variety of activities/facilities available to us in our school and community. Students will participate in many different lifetime, cardiovascular, and some fun game activities. There will also be a classroom portion of the class dealing with

health enhancing habits such as good nutrition, exercise zones, etc. You DO NOT need to be great at sports for this course but you DO NEED to enjoy physical activity!

Spanish (7th Grade)

This class is a two-year Spanish I course (if chosen in 7th and 8th grade). This class will teach you how to talk about yourself and other topics (school, home, food, etc) in Spanish. The class is based on the teacher talking to the students in Spanish and the students interacting with each other in Spanish. [Spanish Description Video 6th to 7th grade](#)

Spanish (8th grade) This class is a continuation of 7th grade. It will be very difficult for students who have not had Spanish in 7th grade. We will cover many of the same topics but in greater depth. The successful completion of this course is a part of becoming eligible *to enroll in Spanish II as a ninth grade student*. Students that do not take the second year of Spanish I as an eighth grade student and wish to continue in the language will need to enroll in Spanish I at the high school. [Spanish video: 7th to 8th grade](#)

Student Tutors (8th Grade only) [Student Tutoring Description Video](#)

For this option, you will work closely with a teacher at the IC or PC. You will walk to the school (even in rainy or snowy weather) to work with students or do other tasks that the teacher requests. The eighth grader will team with the classroom teacher and learn valuable lifelong skills such as cooperation, caring and patience. You will be graded on your attendance, attitude, and participation. PLEASE NOTE: Only 10 or so students will get this opportunity. Selection for this course will be based on grade point average and behavioral data.

Tech. Ed. Building and Construction (8th Grade only)

[Tech. Ed. Description Video \(includes Building and Construction and Future Engineers\)](#)

In this course students will learn how to safely operate and use all the machines in the woodworking shop. Your first project will be using all these machines to create a cool wavy cutting board. Once this is complete, you will have the opportunity to build other wood projects using the different tools and equipment available that include custom pens, a passive speaker for a smartphone, a toolbox, a gumball machine, a pizza peel, a cribbage board, or your own design. A fee of \$10.00 per student will be assessed to cover materials costs.

Tech. Ed. Future Engineers (8th Grade only)

Students, do you wonder how things are invented and how they operate? In this course, students will learn basic design and engineering skills. You will design and build different projects using wood, foam core, 3D printing and plastic to understand how and why things function. They will also spend time developing 3D prints from Computer Aided Design (CAD) programs. Projects: Mousetrap Cars, TinkerCAD, Custom Phone Holder, Co2 Dragster, Trebuchet and Water Rockets. A fee of \$10.00 per student will be assessed to cover materials.

MUSIC ONLY

[7th to 8th Grade Music Options Description Video](#)

[6th to 7th Grade Music Course Description Video](#)

6th Grade Band

Students electing to play a band instrument select instruments in the month of April of their 5th grade year. Instruction begins the last three weeks of summer vacation prior to the start of the 6th grade school year. During the school year, all instruction occurs within the regular school day and consists of three instructional periods per week. See below for details on course content.

7th Grade Band

Continuing from sixth grade band is the most customary way students elect to be in 7th grade band. New students can get involved as long as they are willing to participate in the beginning sequence in the summer. Continuing 7th grade musicians have a three week summer experience where they are introduced to marching and memorization, advancing range extension. During the school year, all instruction occurs within the regular school day and consists of three instructional periods per week plus a 20 minute small group lesson experience. See below for details on course content.

8th Grade Band

Continuing from 6th and 7th grade band is the most customary way students elect to be in 8th grade band. New students can get involved as long as they are willing to meet a prerequisite playing level to blend in to the ensemble. Continuing 8th grade musicians have a three week summer experience where they are introduced to significantly higher levels of music literacy and performance demands. During the school year, all instruction occurs within the regular school day and consists of five instructional periods per week plus a 20 minute small group lesson experience. See below for details on course content.

6th Grade Choir

6th grade choir meets within the regular school day and students will have large group instruction one day per week. Curriculum goals for 6th grade choir include:

- Developing ensemble and listening skills
- Improving knowledge of musical notation (both rhythmic and melodic)
- Learning the basics of score reading
- Improving basic singing skills such as posture, breathing, and vowels
- Students will work on music ranging from unison singing to 3-part harmony in various genres, time signatures, modes, and languages

7th Grade Choir

Continuing from sixth grade choir is the most customary way students elect to be in 7th grade choir. New members are welcome to join and will catch up with some individualized instruction in the beginning of the year. All instruction occurs within the regular school day and consists of two to three instructional periods per week plus a 15 minute individualized instruction lesson once per quarter. Curriculum goals for 7th grade choir include:

- Learning various ways to sing in harmony (unison, 2 part, 3 part, rounds, ostinato, partner songs)
- Improving our singing skills: breathing, posture, dynamics, vowels, consonants
- Learning how to best use our voices in different genres of music (folk song, spiritual, musical theater, pop song, arrangement vs. original composition) and in different languages (English, Latin, Hebrew, Italian)
- Exploring music rhythm and solfege reading
- Gaining music independence in small group or solo work

8th Grade Choir

Continuing from 6th and 7th grade choir is the most customary way students elect to be in 8th grade choir. New members are welcome to join and will catch up with some individualized instruction in the beginning of the year. All instruction occurs within the regular school day and consists of two to five instructional periods per week plus a 15 minute individualized instruction lesson once per quarter. Curriculum goals for 8th grade choir include:

- Learning various ways to sing in harmony (unison, 2 part harmony, 3 part harmony, 4 part harmony, rounds, ostinato, homophonic texture, partner songs, counterpoint)
- Improving our singing skills: breathing, posture, dynamics, vowels, consonants, IPA, resonance, projection
- Learning how to best use our voices in different genres of music (folk song, spiritual, musical theater, arrangement vs. original composition, pop repertoire, jazz, blues, a capella), and in different languages
- Exploring music with different time signatures
- Improving our rhythmic and solfege reading skills
- Gaining music independence in small group or solo work

6th Grade Orchestra

6th grade orchestra is a course in which students continue to develop skills as musicians, and string players. Students expand on the foundation of skills built in 4th and 5th grade orchestra.

- They will expertly notice the musical world around them.
- They will explore the music of other cultures, and how they relate to string playing
- They will connect music and words or ideas that inspired the creation of music.
- They will analyze and explore the process of creating and performing music, using online notation software.
- They will record, evaluate, and grow from their performances.

Fiddle Band is a co-curricular component that is offered to interested students. It's a before-school group that studies and performs folk music from a variety of cultural sources.

7th and 8th Grade Orchestra

7th and 8th Grade Orchestra are courses where students continue to develop the skills learned in grades 4-6. In addition to continuing to refine their technique, students will study a wide range of orchestral music, and use it as a lens towards other topics and disciplines. Students will all participate in a Solo & Ensemble unit, where they will prepare a solo or ensemble piece for performance.

Fiddle Band is a co-curricular component that is offered to interested students. It's a before school group that studies and performs folk music from a variety of cultural sources.

8th Grade Orchestra

Student in 8th Grade receive 45minutes of large group of instruction twice each week. Additionally, students participate in 20 minutes of small group instruction every other week. Scheduling is coordinated so that, if they choose, students may concurrently participate in orchestra, band, and choir.

In 8th Grade Orchestra, students will Create, Perform, Respond, and make Connections as part of the Artistic Process. More specifically the curriculum is focused continuing to refine skills learned in 7th grade orchestra.