

South Charlotte Middle School
8th Grade Elective Course Offerings & Descriptions 2022-23

Yearlong Courses – 36 weeks (every other day)

- **Band 8th (woodwinds, brass, percussion):** This course is a continuation of the Band 7 experience with opportunities to expand to larger instruments. Students must have successfully completed Band 7 and obtain permission from Carl Ratliff (Band instructor). [Band Video](#)
- **Orchestra 8th:** Students will have an opportunity to explore many styles and periods of literature for string instruments. This course is a continuation of the Orchestra 7 experience. Students must have successfully completed Orchestra 7 and obtain permission from Ryan Namkoong (Orchestra instructor).
- **Spanish 1 Part B** (Spanish 1 Part A is a required prerequisite): This course is the second half of a High School credit course. The first half must have been completed in 7th grade. The final grade will be visible on the high school transcript. The course consists of entry level speaking, reading, writing, and listening skills. [Spanish Video](#)
- **Intermediate Chorus 8th:** Students learn intermediate singing techniques within a group setting. In addition to music skills, students will demonstrate skills of cooperation, and learn to compromise and be team players. This class attends a music festival at the end of each school year to be adjudicated by state and national judges. Participation requires permission from Brantley Barnhill (Choral instructor). [Chorus Video](#)
- **Intermediate Dance 7th:** Students learn intermediate dance skills that will build upon instruction in previous dance courses with an increased focus on technical and skill-based development as tools for personal expression. Students will learn proper dance technique/execution across a variety of dance genres, experiment with creating choreography, learn performance values, analyze dance, and understand cultural, historical, and interdisciplinary connections with dance. Participation will require permission sign off from Mandi Little (Dance instructor).

Semester Courses – 18 weeks (every other day)

- **Introduction to Office Productivity:** is a CTE course comprised of a series of instructional modules designed to provide project-based instruction in computer concepts and software applications. The four modules covered are Advanced Word Processing, Spreadsheets Basics & Formulas, Presentation Basics, and Presentation Techniques. [Intro to Office Video](#)
- **Office Productivity Applications:** is a CTE course is a series of instructional modules designed to provide project-based instruction in computer concepts and software applications. The four modules covered are Advanced Word Processing, Spreadsheets Basics (Advanced Functions & Charts/Graphs, Database, and Desktop Publishing. It is highly suggested that students take Intro to Office Productivity first before taking Office Productivity Applications.
- **Exploring Business Procedures and Leadership:** is a CTE course which researches and explores appropriate US and International business etiquette, communication, and ethics. In addition students will explore requirements for seeking, gaining, and maintaining employment.

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- **PLTW (Project Lead The Way) Gateway: Automation and Robotics** is an introduction to engineering class. This course supports students in tracing the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Students use the VEX Robotics® platform to design, build, and program real-world objects such as windmills, pull toys, and robotic arms.
[Automation and Robotics Video](#)
- **PLTW (Project Lead The Way) Gateway: Green Architecture.** In this class students learn how to apply green concepts to the fields of architecture and construction. They explore dimensioning, measuring, and architectural sustainability and apply what they have learned to design affordable housing units using Autodesk's® 3D architectural design software.
- **Drama 8th:** Students will explore many aspects of the theater including acting, directing, playwriting, pantomime, audience etiquette, musical theater, costuming and set design. Students learn to use drama as a means of expressing themselves and developing their “personal voice” as they work both individually and collaboratively to create performances.
- **Dance 8th:** This course provides beginning instruction in dance as personal expression. Students learn to create compositions, learn performance values, use movement skills, analyze dance, and understand cultural, historical, and interdisciplinary connections with dance.
- **Art 8th:** builds upon students' individual skills in visual arts. The focus is on applying elements and principles of design to interpret the environment, to elaborate on an idea, and to use as a means of communication. Students use creative and critical thinking skills as they study the purpose and function of art, the history of art, and the impact of art in cultures.
- **Chorus 8th:** students learn beginning singing techniques within an ensemble setting. In addition to music skills, students will demonstrate skills of cooperation, and learn to compromise and be team players.[Chorus Video](#)