

2023-2024 Taft Eagles

Elective Course Description



Please review the elective course descriptions carefully.

All electives are year-long courses.

If you are choosing Spanish, it is expected that you complete the 2 year minimum (meeting A-G requirements)

ART 6th GRADE

This exploratory course gives students an opportunity to develop skills in multiple art-making techniques

AVID 7th - 8th GRADE

Students sharpen and refine attitude, skills, and knowledge to successfully enter and complete a college-prep academic program in high school. Students learn and apply study skills and learning strategies to improve performance in the content areas. Note taking, outlining, writing, speaking, reading, test strategies, use of appropriate technology.

ACADEMIC LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT (English Learners) 6th - 8th GRADE

This one-period course continues the development of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in English, with emphasis on the reading and writing processes.

GUITAR BEGINNING & INTERMEDIATE 6th - 8th GRADE

These courses are designed to provide opportunities for students to learn the basics of guitar playing. Students will learn fundamentals of music reading and notation and perform guitar music in several styles and from a variety of historical periods and cultures. No previous guitar experience is required.

GATEWAY TO TECH 7th- 8th GRADE

Gateway to Technology is a Project Lead the Way program designed to introduce middle school students to the field of engineering, and provide a foundation for students who plan to enroll in PLTW engineering courses in high school. It consists of six independent nine-week units, each focusing on a different aspect of engineering: Design and Modeling, Automation and Robotics, Medical Detectives, Flight and Space, the Science of Technology, the Magic of Electronics, and Energy and the Environment.

INTRO CODING 6th GRADE

Students in this course are introduced to basic computer science principles and begin to develop computational thinking skills. By applying logic to real-world applications, students will explore the world of coding by creating digital products.

MULTILEVEL STUDY SKILLS 6th- 8th GRADE

This course focuses on learning/study strategies to ensure maximum success in the general classroom.

*Enrolled students must have an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

SPANISH 1-2: 7th- 8th GRADE

This functions-based, introductory course is open to all students who wish to begin the study of Spanish language and cultures. It is intended to develop novice to mid-novice oral-language proficiency as well as limited facility in reading and writing. Major emphasis is on the development of listening and speaking abilities at the novice level with reasonably accurate pronunciation and intonation.

SPANISH 3-4 7th- 8th

This functions-based course is designed for students who have successfully completed Spanish 1-2. It is a continuation of the introductory course and is intended to consolidate students' listening and speaking skills at the mid-novice level, with bridging opportunities to high novice.

SPANISH LANGUAGE ARTS SLIMS 6th- 8th

This course is designed to support the Spanish Dual Language/World Language program and allows students to continue on the immersion pathway after exiting a K-5 dual language program. Taught entirely in Spanish, this is a one-period, balanced literacy course that builds on knowledge and skills acquired in an elementary dual language program.

STU GOVT 6th- 8th

This course affords student body members experience as student leaders. Through guidance, training, experience planning, organizing, and executing a variety of school activities, community service projects, and practical experiences in student government and democratic leadership, these students will grow as leaders of their school and community.