

# Woodbury Middle School



## Unified Arts Course Selection Guide

2019-2020



Dear Parents and Students,

At Woodbury Middle School we continually attempt to enhance program offerings and expand student choice. We believe these are two important factors in creating classes that both engage, and excite students about learning. This Course Selection Guide provides a description of classes that students currently in 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade will choose from in preparation for the 2019 - 2020 school year.

All students in grades 7 & 8 are required to take English Language Arts (ELA), Math, Science, Social Studies; eighth graders also have World Language. In addition, students all are required to take P.E., Health and four other Unified Arts classes. These classes will be offered in trimesters and students in grades 7 and 8 will have choice as to their UA classes.

Students in grade 6 during the 2018- 2019 school year have had an exploratory experience in all of the Unified Arts classes. Students currently in grades 6 and 7 will select Unified Arts classes outlined in this guide that best match their personal interests. We ask that you have conversations with your child about which classes they will choose.

The PowerSchool portal will be open **May 30<sup>th</sup> – June 4<sup>th</sup>** for current 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students and parents to register for course selections for next year. Please follow the instructions outlined below.

We are very excited about the course offerings and ask that if you have any questions, to contact us.

Sincerely,

William Nemec  
Principal

Suzi Greene  
Assistant Principal



## **Class selection instructions**

1. Parents and students review the *Course Selection Guide* for class descriptions.
2. Click on the following link [PowerSchool](https://powerschool.ctreg14.org/public) or go to: powerschool.ctreg14.org/public and log in to your user account
3. Under NAVIGATION on the left choose CLASS REGISTRATION
4. Follow instructions at the top of the page
5. Please contact your student's school counselor or the assistant principal with any questions about the selection process.

## **Course Selection Process**

The course selection process will be open for students to choose courses from May 30 – June 4. We strongly encourage parents and students to review the Course Selection Guide and for students to make selections that most interest them.

We encourage students to be thoughtful about the courses they select. A schedule will be built and sections will be determined based on the number of requests for each class. Students will determine four UA first choices and then three alternates. Please be sure not to duplicate courses as this may become a barrier for enrolling each student in preferred courses.

## **Woodbury Middle School Unified Arts Course Selection**

*\*Elective classes are subject to change based on availability and student interest.*

The following unified arts classes will be offered as trimester classes. We are requesting each student select three courses as first priority and two others as alternate selections in the event classes are not offered or scheduling prohibits placement.

<b>Video Broadcasting</b>			<b>7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade</b>
Trimester			
<p>Video Broadcasting is a course during which students create quality media productions such as news and sports broadcasts, public service announcements, silent movies, movie trailers, book trailers, music videos, and more!</p> <p>This course uses a hands-on approach, providing both in front of and behind the scenes camera experiences. Students will learn proper camera use and operation, picture composition, production outlines, lighting, sound engineering, directing, news anchoring, videography, and video editing. These experiences may culminate in broadcasting of student work.</p> <p>This course is available to all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. (8<sup>th</sup> grades students who were in this class in 7<sup>th</sup> grade will participate in activities to further the study of video broadcasting.)</p>			

<b>Engineering and Production</b>			<b>7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade</b>
Trimester			
<p>Engineering and Production is a hands-on, project based course. Students will design and create products made from raw materials, such as: a CO2 powered dragsters, wooden pens, mousetrap powered vehicles, model rockets, and more. Safety and proper work habits in the lab will be strictly enforced.</p> <p>Students will learn two dimensional designing using AutoCAD, a computer assisted design software program. Students will become problem solvers and critical thinkers by learning about some of the key skills commonly used in the field of engineering. This course has an emphasis on 2 dimensional design and fabrication in addition to using tools and machines in the wood lab.</p> <p>This course is available to all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. (8<sup>th</sup> grade students who were in this class in 7<sup>th</sup> grade will participate in activities to further the study of engineering.)</p>			

<b>Engineering/Video Broadcasting</b>		<b>6th grade-all students</b>
Trimester		
<p>6<sup>th</sup> Grade Engineering/Video Production is an introduction to the courses that are offered in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Students will participate in activities related to the fields of engineering and video production.</p> <p>Engineering is a hands-on, project based course. Students will become problem solvers and critical thinkers by learning about some of the key skills commonly used in the field of engineering. Students will create products made from raw materials in the wood lab. Students will spend time exploring a computer assisted design program called AutoCAD.</p> <p>The Video Production portion of the class will provide both in front of and behind the scenes camera experiences. Students will use also use Adobe Premiere Pro software to create a video production project to be shared with an audience.</p>		

<b>6th Grade Music Experience</b>		<b>6th Grade- all students</b>
Trimester		
<p>6<sup>th</sup> Grade Music Experience is a course in which students will explore digital music software and compose using loops in various musical genres. Students will also spend time learning basic hand drumming techniques from around the world and learn common ukulele chord progressions.</p> <p>This course is a part of every 6<sup>th</sup> grade students schedule for one trimester.</p>		

<b>Ukulele and Drumming</b>		<b>7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade</b>
Trimester		
<p>In this class students will be exposed to various drumming techniques found around the world. Students will learn how to read drum ensemble music and actively participate in a drum circle setting. Students will also learn ukulele technique, chord progressions and will have opportunities to perform at concerts throughout the year, if interested.</p> <p>This course is available to all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.</p>		

<b>Digital Music</b>		<b>7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade</b>
Trimester		
<p>This course will involve students using music software to create, perform and respond to music. Students will learn about the basics of composing using loops as well as various genres of music. Students will have the opportunity to collaborate on compositions with students in their class and other classes as well as students in other schools. Along with using music composing software, students will learn the basics of sound systems with the potential of assisting the tech crew at concerts.</p> <p>This course is available to all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.</p>		

<b>Small Ensemble</b>			<b>7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade</b>
Trimester			
<p>Small Ensemble students have the opportunity to learn and perform solos, duets, and small ensembles (trios, quartets, quintets, etc.). This course is offered to band and orchestra students, as well as to students who play an instrument outside of school (piano, guitar, etc.). Throughout the trimester, students will perform for a variety of audiences - for their peers, teachers, for WMS Families, in the morning before classes, at the Woodbury Senior Center, and in a recital.</p> <p>In addition, students will collaborate with peers, self-reflect, and learn to give effective feedback to others. They will also learn how to properly prepare to perform, how to work through performance nerves, and how musicians communicate with other musicians when performing. This class is an ideal option for musicians who enjoy playing their instruments and are looking for additional opportunities to perform and grow in confidence!</p> <p>This course is available to all 7th and 8th graders.</p>			

<b>Health</b>			<b>6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade</b>
Trimester			
<p>Health Class is designed to help students learn to make healthy decisions and to progress towards becoming healthy and productive teenagers and adults. Each year of Health builds upon on the previous year's learning, as students continue in their development as adolescents.</p> <p>Sixth grade health students will develop their self-esteem and social/emotional health through various means such as collaborative communication and role playing, speaking and listening, recognizing individuality and differences, while using interest inventories. Topics include Communication, Drug Education, Human Development, and Infectious Diseases.</p> <p>Seventh grade health students will be learning about Mental Health and exploring resources surrounding mental, emotional, and social health. Other topics include Nutrition, Drug Education, Human Development and Infectious Diseases. Activities involving reading labels to support healthy decision, collaborative and group learning to explore resources for support, role playing from multiple perspectives are all part of 7th grade Health. Students will compare healthy vs unhealthy lifestyle choices to support their current and future health.</p> <p>Eighth grade health involves further exploration in areas that may have already been presented in previous years, as well as new topics and units. Included are Infectious Diseases/Immune System, Noninfectious Diseases and Risk Factors, Drug Education, Health Care Professionals/Resources, and Human development/Reproduction. Students will research and present on relevant topics, work in collaborative groups to present to an audience, identify and explore a variety of resources in support informed decisions, and role play to demonstrate diverse perspectives.</p>			

<b>Physical Education</b>			<b>6th/7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade</b>
Trimester			
<p>The Physical Education program provides each student with the opportunity to participate in a comprehensive program consisting of skill development, lead up games, team sports and physical fitness activities. The students receive instruction in rules, skills and strategies associated with the different sports as well as learning experiences involving physical conditioning activities. The students will also have opportunities to become involved in life-long physical activities through individual sport units. The program promotes the spirit of cooperation, leadership, fair play and friendly competition.</p> <p>Some activities include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Strength training / Fitness</li> <li>● Yoga</li> <li>● Cardio kickboxing</li> <li>● Team sports (soccer, basketball)</li> <li>● Net games (badminton, volleyball, pickleball, tennis)</li> <li>● Cooperative games / team building challenges</li> <li>● Lifelong activities (Frisbee, picnic games, golf, bowling, archery)</li> </ul>			

<b>Capstone</b>			<b>8<sup>th</sup> grade</b>
(Trimesters 2 & 3 <b>both</b> )			
<p>Are you curious about how to create, design, and innovate products? Do you work best when you have control over your own learning? Are you someone who learns best through hands-on, experiential learning? The 8th Grade Capstone Class is a unique opportunity for 8th graders to engage in a 2 trimester, rich learning experience. Students in this course will work individually as well as part of a highly collaborative team to create a new product, service, or solution that addresses the designated theme for the year.</p> <p>Students in the Capstone will learn how to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Use the Design Cycle to engage in challenge-based learning.</li> <li>● Identify a problem that will be addressed by an authentic project idea.</li> <li>● Communicate creatively and effectively in verbal, written, and visual forms.</li> <li>● Investigate a topic via research, development, experiment or testing method, and data analysis.</li> <li>● Develop an innovative solution (product, artifact, or community action) that addresses a problem.</li> <li>● Demonstrate application of the solution with experimentation and/or prototype creation.</li> </ul> <p>The Capstone course also includes a showcase of student work at a professional exhibition booth at the Oakdale theatre. Over the course of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> trimesters, teams of students will use six critical 21st Century Skills—Information Literacy, Creativity and Innovation, Collaboration, Problem Solving, Communication, and Responsible Citizenship—to design and develop an Expo Fest project. Practicing and mastering these six skills sets students apart as lifelong learners and innovators. <b><i>Course requires students to be highly motivated and comfortable setting and achieving their own learning goals.</i></b> This course is a culmination of the middle school experience!</p>			

<b>Course Name: Foundations in Art</b>			<b>6<sup>th</sup> grade</b>
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Trimester	
<p>During Foundations in Art, 6th grade students will be building on their knowledge of the elements of art and the principles of design. These primary aspects of art are explicitly taught and students will exhibit their final pieces. 6th grade students will be exposed to new materials such as cut paper, printmaking and ceramics. Students will also be able to explore areas of interests and find their own artistic voice.</p>	

<b>Course Name: 3D Sculpture</b>		<b>7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade</b>
Trimester		
<p>Sculpture is ideal for students who love to work with their hands in order to create. The pieces that students will create can be larger than life, or smaller than a tea cup. During this course students will be exposed to different methods and strategies to problem solve creative and technical issues.</p> <p>Throughout this course students will be consistently challenged to use materials in concepts in new ways to create innovative pieces of art. Materials can include paper, wire, clay, wheel throwing, and more to create a series of pieces. 8th grade students who took this course in 7th grade will be exposed to more challenging assignments.</p>		

<b>Course Name: Drawing and Painting</b>		<b>7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade</b>
Trimester		
<p>Enjoy telling stories and spinning a narrative? Every image is worth a thousand words, and in painting and drawing students will be learning practical art making skills in order to tell their own story. During this class students will learn to draw from life, and other necessary skills for creating images that will communicate their unique ideas.</p> <p>Students will be exposed to different mediums such as shading pencils, charcoal, watercolors, tempera paint and more. Students will be expected to complete two smaller projects that harness their drawing skills which will be based off of observation or photos that you have taken.</p> <p>8th grade students who took this course in 7th grade will be exposed to more challenging assignments.</p>		

<b>Course Name: What's Cooking?</b>		<b>7th</b>
Trimester		
<p>In this introductory cooking class, students will have the opportunity to learn about food and kitchen safety, following a recipe, measurements and conversions, kitchen equipment, kitchen utensils, and basic food preparation. In this hands-on class, students will be able to practice cooking on a weekly basis, preparing foods such as omelettes, cookies, cupcakes, brownies, and macaroni and cheese.</p>		

<b>Course Name: Tasty Treats</b>		<b>8th</b>
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Trimester	
<p>In this advanced Culinary Arts class, students will build on upon knowledge and skills acquired in the 7th grade What's Cooking class. Foodborne illnesses, herbs and knife skills, seasoning, cake decorating, presentation, and American Regional Cuisine are among the main focuses of study in this course. Weekly cooking projects include chicken noodle soup, calzones, cakes, and tacos.</p>	

**Performing Ensemble Offerings**

Woodbury Middle School is pleased to offer students the opportunity to participate in band, chorus and orchestra. These ensemble offerings are separate from the electives students may choose to take and operate on a rotating pull-out lesson schedule. All students will be placed into lesson groups and will attend 1 pull-out lesson a week. Students will also attend 2 ensemble rehearsals during the week during the ensemble block.

<b>Chorus</b>		<b>6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade</b>
Individual lessons & Weekly rehearsals		
<p>Chorus is a WMS music performing ensemble that rehearses in individual lessons by section and full ensemble rehearsals on a weekly basis. Chorus students will work collaboratively in an ensemble setting to prepare for several concerts throughout the year. Students will learn about vocal health, posture, breathing, performance and audience etiquette and will study a variety of genres of choral music.</p> <p>This course is available to all 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students.</p>		

<b>Band</b>		<b>6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade</b>
Individual lessons and weekly rehearsals		
<p>Band is a WMS music performing ensemble that consists of students who play woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments, grades 6-8. Each band student receives one weekly, small-group lesson during the school day. In addition to this, all band students, grades 6-8, rehearse together on a weekly basis. Band students perform a variety of music genres at least twice a year in a winter and spring concert.</p> <p>Band students learn about, practice, and demonstrate a variety of musical skills and concepts. These include: correct posture and hand position, scales, key signature, time signature, note and rhythmic accuracy, tempo, dynamics, articulations, and tone. They also learn about instrument care, appropriate band rehearsal etiquette, as well as how to work with all band members to create music together.</p> <p>This course is available to all 6th, 7th, and 8th graders.</p>		

<b>String Orchestra</b>		<b>6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade</b>

String Orchestra is a WMS music performing ensemble that consists of students in grades 6-8 who play either violin, viola, cello, or double bass. Each String Orchestra student receives one weekly, small-group lesson during the school day. In addition to this, all students rehearse together on a weekly basis. String Orchestra students perform a variety of musical genres at least twice a year in a winter and spring concert.

String Orchestra students learn about, practice, and demonstrate a variety of musical skills and concepts. These include: correct posture and bow technique, scales, key signatures, time signatures, melodic and rhythmic notation, tempo, dynamics, articulations, and tone production. They also learn about instrument care, appropriate rehearsal etiquette, and how to work with all String Orchestra members to create music together.

This course is available to all 6th, 7th, and 8th graders.