

ART



This course engages students in the exploration of multiple art forms through the California State VAPA strands. The focus of the class is on the elements of art (line, shape/form, space, texture, value and color). Students learn various art techniques including painting, sculpting clay, drawing, making collages and more. Creativity is a theme tying all projects together. This is a one semester exploratory art course. There is a suggested lab contribution of \$15 for this class.

CONCERT BAND (YEAR LONG)

This course will help students develop their musicianship through band and small ensemble performances. In addition, band will provide many opportunities to develop creativity, leadership, friendships, and school spirit as we work together toward excellence and sharing our music at community and school performances. Performances are an important part of the grading process. This is a year-long class.

HONOR BAND (YEAR LONG – BY PLACEMENT)



This course is designed for the advanced middle school musician. It is offered during “0” period (7:30 – 8:20 a.m.). This class is designed primarily for 8th grade students who have been in the Concert Band elective for a full year in 7th grade. This course will provide many performance opportunities including concerts, festivals, and touring Rocklin’s elementary schools.

CHORUS

This course is for students who want to learn to sing and share in the joy of performing a variety of choral music. This class will cover singing techniques, reading music, and exploring various types and styles of songs. Performances are an

important part of the grading process. This course is open to all students who like to sing, regardless of past experience.



STRING ORCHESTRA (YEAR LONG)

This course will help students who play violin, viola, and cello to continue developing their musicianship through orchestral and small ensemble performance. In addition, orchestra will provide many opportunities to develop creativity, leadership, friendships, and school spirit as we all work together toward excellence and sharing our music at community and school performances. Performances are an important part of the grading process. Prior string experience recommended.

GUITAR LAB

Guitar Lab is a non-performance class for the beginning guitarist. Basic chords, strumming, music notation, fingerings and styles are covered throughout this course. Students will learn the basics of how to play the guitar in a supportive group setting and will gain a deeper understanding of the impact of the instrument on music throughout its history.

PUBLICATIONS

The Granite Oaks Publications course is designed to provide students with the journalism skills necessary for the production of the school yearbook and the online school publication, *The Bird’s Eye View*. Units of study include media awareness, researching, reporting, writing, editing, photography, graphic design and distribution. A strong commitment to publications is required in order to make an outstanding yearbook. As “reporters”, students will be expected to cover extra-curricular events

after school, work independently, and be able to honor deadlines.

EXPLORATORY SPANISH

This course is an introduction to the Spanish language, culture, and history. This one-semester course will introduce the student to basic conversational Spanish. Students will gain the necessary skills to appreciate the Spanish language through grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, and daily class participation. To reinforce what is being learned, students will participate in games, do group activities, have daily warm ups and complete art projects. You do not need to take Exploratory Spanish in order to take Spanish I in 8th grade.

SPANISH I (HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT)

Spanish I is a year-long course designed so that the student will study vocabulary, have a basic mastery of regular verb conjugations in the present tense, and be able to answer basic questions. In addition, students will develop a stronger cultural awareness, which is an essential aspect of learning a language. It is our hope that students will learn to converse with their basic Spanish rather than focusing only on the rules that govern Spanish grammar. Classroom activities will include paired and group activities, story telling, translations, games, videos, presentations, art related projects, daily warm-ups, book work exercises, and tests. This course uses the essential skills required by Rocklin and Whitney High School. We are using the ¡Espresate! text and curriculum.

Prerequisite: 8th grade, 3.5 GPA or higher.

*Exploratory Spanish is not required to take Spanish I.

Note: Upon completion of Spanish I, 9th grade students will be placed in Advanced Spanish II at Rocklin High School only.



FAMILY CONSUMER SCIENCE

In alignment with the National Standards for Family and Consumer Sciences, this course aims to enrich students' lives through a variety of project-based learning experiences. Areas of study include: food science, nutrition, food production, consumer awareness, textile manufacturing, apparel construction, and resource management.

Hands on learning activities allow students to develop life-enriching skills, while showcasing their creativity and individuality. During their study of textile manufacturing and apparel construction, students use classroom sewing equipment to design and construct their own unique stuffed animal and a drawstring backpack.

While learning the essential components of food science, nutrition, and production, students will collaborate with peers while participating in weekly food labs. During food labs, students learn the importance of safe and sanitary kitchen practices, selecting healthful (yet tasty) recipes, and a wide array of culinary terms and techniques. Students are requested to provide their own sewing supplies as well as a \$15.00 donation toward consumable lab materials.



MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY



Manufacturing Technology is a course that exposes students to a variety of materials and processes used in industry to produce products. Students will draw and design four products using a computer. Students will select suitable materials and methods to manufacture the products. Hand tools, power tools, and computer controlled equipment will be used. Students will be instructed in proper tool use, safety, measuring, finishing techniques, and quality control. Required projects include a Laser Engraved Clock, 3-D Wooden Animal, and a Sandblasted Mirror.

Students may choose from the following for their fourth project: Electronic Circuit Board Fabrication, Pewter Casting, Lathe Turned Ink Pens, Monogram Signs, Birdhouses, Checkerboards, Leathercraft, Woodburning, Wallshelves, and Skateboards. A donation of \$15 is requested to cover consumable materials. These projects encourage problem solving and direction following skills that reinforce the elective and core curriculum.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

In this semester long course, students explore ethical issues related to computers and internet technology and develop teamwork and communication skills. Students will be exposed to skills related to information technology basics: Internet fundamentals, network systems, computer maintenance, upgrading and troubleshooting, basic coding, computer applications, programming graphics, web page design and interactive media.

Electives

2017-2018



Jay Holmes, Principal
Jeff Christensen, Assistant Principal
Linda Marcarian, Counselor
Rosemary Elston, Counselor

Granite Oaks Middle School
“A California Distinguished School”
“A National Blue Ribbon School”

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission at Granite Oaks Middle School, a leader in collaborative and dynamic learning, is to inspire all students to develop their unique abilities with a well-balanced, quality educational experience through high academic standards and diverse extra curricular opportunities strengthened by engagement with our families and community.