

**ARMSTRONG MIDDLE SCHOOL EIGHTH GRADE COURSE OFFERINGS**  
**2020 - 2021 ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

**APPLIED ART & DESIGN:** In this semester long class, students will learn about and develop skills in drawing, painting, and design. Each art and design project will be introduced through a series of exercises and applications that allow students to practice using art tools and materials properly through hands-on experience. The focus of the class will be on the process of producing quality artwork. Class will also include projects that explore art and design careers and famous artists. This class is perfect for kids who love to draw, be creative and have a desire to learn new skills and improve on the skills they already have.

**BEGINNING CHOIR:** This class is designed for students who have not had previous choir experience in middle school. Students learn the basics in vocal production, music theory, sight reading and general musicianship. Students will also learn about various composers and musical styles. The students are required to participate in two public performances.

**CHORUS:** This semester long course is designed for students who have successfully completed beginning choir. Students will learn to develop their singing voices and begin developing skills necessary to function successfully in a vocal ensemble setting. Music theory and music history segments are also included in the course of study. The students are required to participate in two public performances.

**COMPUTER SCIENCE I VIDEO GAMES & ANIMATIONS:** Do you like playing video games? Would you like to make them yourself? This elective is open to all students as an introductory class in computer science (CS). This class begins by exploring the problem-solving process which can be applied to real-world problems like getting to class on time or asking for a raise in your allowance. You will then move on to learn how to code interactive greeting cards you can share with your friends and family. You will then expand your coding vocabulary to learn how to simulate gravity and collisions when coding your very own video game. But wait, there's more! You will also be introduced to Sphero robots which you will code to perform various missions, culminating in a battle-bots style remote-control tournament. The class concludes with a week-long unit on Tello drones in which you will navigate a drone through several coding challenges.

**COMPUTER SCIENCE II APPS & MINI-COMPUTERS:** We use apps everyday on smartphones & computers. Would you like to learn how to make your own apps? ***This elective is open to all students who have successfully completed either of the computer classes the previous year.*** In this class you'll learn about how computers are impacting society. Through a series of design challenges you'll learn how to develop your very own app! You'll make an app to address a problem which you care about, and learn about the importance of data in solving problems. In this class you will also learn how to code a mini-computer. Using Adafruit's Circuit Playground, you'll develop programs that utilize the same hardware inputs and outputs that you see in the smart devices. This class will include lessons requiring advanced programming challenges for the Sphero robots and Tello drones.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION:** This course is designed to build upon past skills and help students find activities they enjoy. Emphasis is placed upon allowing students to experience a variety of sports and improve their level of performance and fitness. Units will include a combination of team and individual sports.

**EXPLORING FRENCH:** This course provides students with an introduction to the French language and culture without the pace of a high school level course. Students will be actively involved using the language with an emphasis on speaking and listening skills, exposure to basic reading and writing skills, cultural and food exploration, engaging activities, music, and games. Passing this course does not fulfill the high school World Language requirement.

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**FRENCH I:** This is a high school level course. Students are eligible for this course if they have a C- or better in their 7th grade Language Arts class and have been recommended by their LA teacher. Students who are able to pass the class will earn a high school World Language credit. French I is designed to introduce students to French grammar, vocabulary and culture. Students will be introduced to four language skills; listening, speaking, reading and writing. If students do not pass the class at Armstrong, they will be required to retake it at KHS, as it is a high school requirement.

**EXPLORING SPANISH:** This course provides students with an introduction to the Spanish language and culture without the pace of a high school level course. Students will be actively involved using the language with an emphasis on speaking and listening skills, exposure to basic reading and writing skills, cultural and food exploration, engaging activities, music, and games. Passing this course does not fulfill the high school World Language requirement.

**SPANISH I:** This is a high school level course. Students are eligible for this course if they have a C- or better in their 7th grade Language Arts class and have been recommended by their LA teacher. Students who are able to pass the class will earn a high school World Language credit. Spanish I is designed to introduce students to Spanish grammar, vocabulary and culture. Students will be introduced to four language skills; listening, speaking, reading and writing. If students do not pass the class at Armstrong, they will be required to retake it at KHS, as it is a high school requirement.

**ADVANCED BAND:** This band is for 7th and 8th grade students *who have successfully completed beginning band* and wish to continue their growth and education as a young musician. Students in this band are required to perform with the band at several concerts held throughout the year as well as band festival which may take place after school.