

**Art:** The middle school program is based on the four art disciplines: history, production, criticism, and aesthetics. The eighth grade visual arts program is a semester course, which consists of two nine-week terms. Using the basic skills needed to create art, students will be actively involved in their own learning. One of these basic skills is applying the elements and principles of design. Another is using unique ways of recording what they can see and recall. **Sketching** and **drawing perspective pictures** will be practiced. Students will critique and evaluate their own drawings and paintings. Other artistic areas to be studied and practiced, but not limited too are: **ancient Roman bas relief carving, pointillism painting and color theory, charcoal and value drawing, two point perspective city scapes**, as well as **contour line and watercolor painting** techniques.

**FACS:** 8th grade FACS, a semester long class, builds upon the topics from both the 6th and 7th grade FACS classes. The focus on the 8th grade FACS class is directed to problem solving, decision making, and the transferring and application of real life concepts to the student's' current lifestyles and future.

Units covered during the semester include:

- **influence of families**
- **personal development and decision making**
- **consumer information**
- **banking and financial information**
- **family budgets**
- **sewing construction**
- **health, wellness and nutrition**
- **food safety**
- **application of cooking techniques**

### **Media Productions:**

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Media Productions is a course that will combine all types of media sources (**animation, photography, desktop publishing, digital citizenship and web design**) in projects using technology applications to conduct research, manage projects, and produce projects that convey information in various types of communication. Students will learn how to be good digital citizens and learn about internet safety. Students will also use **hands-on activities** requiring students to work in groups and to be creative, responsible and professional.

### **Contemporary Issues**

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Contemporary Issues is a course in which students **investigate current happenings in today's society**, including **local, state, national, and world issues**. Students will examine the central questions of: "How can we, as independent thinkers and responsible citizens, draw conclusions regarding current issues?" The development of essential twenty-first century skills will be a priority in this class. The following list highlights many of the skills that will be practiced:

- research - analyzing sources
- reading - for comprehension and purpose
- summarizing - identifying main ideas and paraphrasing
- listening - hearing and respecting the opinions of others
- presenting - clearly sharing your ideas and providing evidence to support those ideas

### **Medical Detectives**

Students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they **analyze genetic testing results to diagnose disease and study DNA evidence** found at a "crime scene." They solve medical mysteries through **hands-on projects and labs**, investigate how to measure and interpret vital signs, and learn how the systems of the human body work together to maintain health.

### **Introduction to Agriculture**

Exploring Agriculture will introduce students to opportunities in agriculture through the exploration of careers related to the agriculture industry. This course will include exploring the science of agriculture including: plants, animals, natural resources, and agricultural mechanics. Students will experience many hands-on activities and explore the National FFA organization. Students may also start the development of a supervised agricultural experience (SAE) in their area of interest.