

**JERICHO MIDDLE SCHOOL  
EIGHTH-GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

**Music Choices:**

**Band 8:**

This is the recommended sequence for students in the band program. It is a full-year course that meets every day. Students will perform in two concerts per year. Band rehearsals every day result in great improvement in performance and enjoyment of playing. NYSSMA Festival participation is encouraged and many students elect to participate due to quickly growing musicianship. Students will play music from various eras and diverse cultural styles.

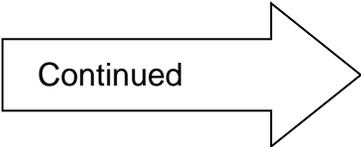
**Chorus 8:**

This is the recommended sequence for students in the vocal music program. Eighth grade chorus builds on the vocal skills learned in 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade preparing students for more advanced singing in High School. It is a full year course that meets on alternate days.

**Orchestra 8:**

This is the recommended sequence for students in the string program. It is a full-year course that meets every day.

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## **Elective Choices:**

### **Community Service Learning:**

This course is targeted for students who are interested in identifying needs within the community and participating in real-life experiences outside the classroom. This experience will allow students not only to become familiar with the community in which they live, but will also allow them to see themselves as active, powerful people who can make positive contributions through these efforts. The activities will focus on a variety of different programs, and an outreach will be made to community service organizations. Students will have an opportunity to earn VALUE credits by participating in this class. **Students must earn 20 V.A.L.U.E. credits to fulfill the requirements of this course.**

### **Competitive Science:**

This course will provide students with a basic introduction to the research process. It will also enable them to participate in a variety of science and/or technology competitions that are appropriate for middle school students. These may include the Long Island Science Congress, the Discovery Fair, the Toshiba ExploraVision, the Oracle Thinkquest and other local and national events. Many of these activities will take place in the high school research facilities.

### **Digital Art Exploratory:**

Students will explore and master the use of the same digital art programs professional artists use. We will use Photoshop and Corel Painter to create animation and digital art such as movie posters, book covers, video game characters, music CD covers, science illustrations, digital paintings, and much more.

### **ELA Elective - Hero Quest**

What is a true hero? What influences a hero's call to adventure? What trials and tribulations can thwart a hero's path? What does it take to successfully follow the hero's path? This elective will explore a hero's journey through graphic novels, film, and social media. In this course, students will also have the opportunity to create their own hero's story through digital graphic novels.

### **History at the Movies:**

*Seabiscuit, Cinderella Man, Pearl Harbor, Remember the Titans:* all entertaining movies, but how accurate are they? In this elective, you will watch some American classics in addition to some blockbusters with the goal of using the films to enrich the themes studied in social studies class, as well as separating fact from fiction, history from Hollywood. All movies selected will serve to deepen your understanding of American history and enhance your ability to think more critically about Hollywood's treatment of history.

### **Introduction to Dance:**

This course will explore the basic fundamentals of various styles of dance. Throughout the course students will study dance using creative expression and technical achievement. You will learn basic terminology in the genres such as jazz, ballet, modern/contemporary, hip hop, and choreography through various exercises and floor work. The movement portion of the class consists of warm ups, center floor exercises including balancing skills, body alignment, stretches, and visualization skills, as well as across the floor exercises. Finally, we will take the movement and apply it to basic composition and creative expression, working towards putting choreography sequences together.

### **Introduction to Videography:**

Students will explore the process of video production. Eighth graders will create original video works from conception to completion. Students will story board ideas, write dialogue, film on location or in the JET-TV studio. Students will also learn how to edit their videos, analyze, evaluate and screen their work. This is a total hands-on class that will introduce the ever growing field of communication to students.

### **It's Showtime!**

Do you have star potential? Are you a risk taker? Then, this is the course for you! This popular course is a performance-based acting class for eighth graders that will peak their creativity and allow them to feel like celebrities. In this course, students will learn the fundamentals of acting including improvisation, monologue, dialogue, and small/large-group productions. Students will be involved in reading, viewing, listening to, researching, producing, and evaluating plays, television shows, films, songs, and commercials. The topics of costume design, properties, makeup, and advertising will also be addressed. Several times during the year, students will act in front of live audiences in order to understand the thrill of live performance. **Two requirements of this course are attendance on field trips in order to enhance an appreciation for the arts AND the willingness to perform in front of live audiences.**

### **Little Chefs:**

Calling All Cooks! Take this course and you'll learn how to turn ordinary foods into extraordinary meals. Understand the basic fundamentals of food preparation, meal planning and techniques the pros use to present certain types of foods. Fun lessons, field trips and great foods are in store for you with this class. **As a project, this elective may require students to prepare a meal at home (including the purchase of certain ingredients) with adult assistance/supervision.** Bon Appétit!!

### **Mock Trial**

Are you interested in the law? Have you ever seen a trial? Do you enjoy competition? In Mock Trial, students will learn how to conduct a trial from start to finish as they plan, draft, and present opening statements, direct examinations, cross examinations, and closing arguments. Mock trial fosters student self-confidence, improves analytical and speaking skills, and the ability to work well with others – not to mention it's fun! **Students will participate in the BOCES mock trial competition at Dowling College in the spring.**

### **SEEDlings:**

SEEDlings: Where do our beliefs in life come from? Think about what we learn every day from music, movies, television, friends, and family about the world around us and *our* place in this global community. Consider what this means to you. This course fosters understanding of cultural differences in gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, spirituality/religion, and other forms of diversity. In this activity-based class we reflect on who we are as individuals and through class discussion, movies, music, food, and readings we learn what unites us and what sometimes divides us, and why. This class will also include a field trip, 'Project Adventure' style activities and guest speakers. Join in the adventure...

### **World of Technology:**

Students will explore the worlds of engineering, design, architecture, marketing, television production, computer applications, CAD (Computer Assisted Design), simulation software, aviation, and transportation technologies. Students gain experience and knowledge through the application of Math, Science, and Technology (MST).

