

8th-GRADE ELECTIVES

AVID (limited-access; application required)

APPLICATION REQUIRED. Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) is an academic program that focuses on writing as a tool of learning, the inquiry method, collaborative teamwork, and reading. AVID students are enrolled in rigorous curriculum as well as an AVID elective class. The AVID elective class provides academic instruction, tutorial support, organization, college readiness, and motivational activities. Students in the program are expected to take at least one high school credit class while at KMS. Students in the program are expected to take on leadership positions. Students in the program may be required to attend and/or participate in activities and field trips during and outside the school day to support and extend the program; such activities and trips may require fees.

Band, Advanced

Students with previous band experience build on instrumental technique, music literacy, and aesthetic response through rehearsal, performance, and study of a variety of high-quality band literature. Instrumentalists expand their knowledge of music notation, music theory, sound production, and personal and group rehearsal strategies. In tandem with their learning opportunities in band, students investigate careers in a wide variety of fields guided by the competencies required by Florida Statute. Public performances may serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. Students may be required to attend and/or participate in rehearsals and performances outside the school day to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom. This course may also require students to obtain a musical instrument (e.g., borrow, rent, purchase) from an outside source.

Band, Beginning

Students need no prior experience with music or instrument-specific training. This course develops student musicians in woodwind, brass or percussion techniques, which include individualized instrument training and music notation reading. The Beginning Band course provides a learn-at-your-own pace approach while also integrating team-building and music-making through the ensemble. Students will be taught problem-solving practice and music reading techniques to assist with improving ability faster. As a co-curricular class, the Beginning Band performs two concerts with the department during the year. Students choose instruments through a series of basic ability tests and consultations with the director. Avenues for instrument rentals through school-based and third-party means will be provided; however, scholarships are available for students in need of an instrument or supplies on an individual basis.

Chorus

Students with little or no choral experience develop beginning vocal technique and skills, critical and creative thinking skills, and an appreciation of music from around the world and through time. Public performances may serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. Students may be required to attend and/or participate in rehearsals and performances outside the school day to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom.

Computer Applications 2

This class further explores the basic computer competencies learned in Computer Applications 1, including word processing, spreadsheets, digital graphics editing, and typing.

Culinary

Students will learn about safety and sanitation procedures at home and in the food service industry, careers in the food industry. Students will also learn soft skills that can be carried throughout life (ex.cooperation, time management, collaboration, proper communication) This course also provides for practical labs after instruction. Your student may even want to help you out at home by organizing and cooking, washing dishes and folding laundry. *This course has a fee \$10.00 per semester and may require the purchasing of other items throughout the course.*

Digital Information Technology

HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT. This course emphasizes developing fundamental computer skills. The intention of this course is to prepare students to be successful both personally and professionally in an information based society. Digital Information Technology includes the exploration and use of: databases, the internet, spreadsheets, presentation applications, management of personal information and email, word processing and document manipulation, HTML, web page design, and the integration of these programs using software that meets industry standards.

Fashion & Interior Design (limited seats available)

In this course students will learn the fundamentals of sewing and the fashion/interior design basics. Students will learn hand sewing and machine sewing basics (also may include sergers, ironing, quilting and embroidery) and they will have exposure to Interior Design basics through creative projects. *The class has a \$5.00 per semester fee and may require additional purchase if student has a particular project they want to make or requires special fabric. Student will need to purchase a sewing kit for personal use in class.* This course is very individualized and works at the pace of the students.

Forensic Science (limited-access; application required)

APPLICATION REQUIRED. This course examines the principles, theories and practices of forensic science utilized within the law enforcement community and the American legal system. Forensic science is the study and application of science to the process of law and involves the collection, examination, evaluation and interpretation of evidence. Students will gain a basic understanding of the scientific and analytical approach to determining the value of evidence as it relates to the court of law.

Orchestra

Students who have little or no orchestral experience study and perform a variety of diverse orchestra literature. Rehearsals focus on the development of critical listening skills, rudimentary string techniques, music literacy, ensemble skills, and aesthetic awareness. Public performances may serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. Students may be required to attend and/or participate in rehearsals and performances outside the school day. Students in this class may need to obtain (e.g., borrow, rent, purchase) an instrument from an outside source.

Panther Pals

Panther Pals is dedicated to inspiring friendships and supporting people with disabilities.

Personal Career & School

The purpose of the course is to enable students to develop learning strategies, critical-thinking skills and problem solving skills to enhance their performance in academic and nonacademic endeavors.

Robotics Technology

Students use Python, C++, to design and build robots with Arduino hardware and Lego Robotics to build projects through structured lessons, then modify their code to create custom projects.

Spanish 1

HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT. Spanish 1 introduces students to the target language and its culture. The student will develop communicative skills in all 3 modes of communication and cross-cultural understanding. Emphasis is placed on proficient communication in the language. An introduction to reading and writing is also included as well as culture, connections, comparisons, and communities.

Spanish 2

HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT. Spanish 2 reinforces the fundamental skills acquired by the students in Spanish 1. The course develops increased listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills as well as cultural awareness. Specific content to be covered is a continuation of listening and oral skills acquired in Spanish 1. Reading and writing receive more emphasis, while oral communication remains the primary objective. The cultural survey of the target language-speaking people is continued.

Speech / Drama

This elective course focuses on communication skills learned through pantomime, dialogue writing, memorization of written material, speech making, and oral reading. Improvisation and role-playing emphasize concentration and other skills.

Yearbook/TV Productions (limited-access; application required)

APPLICATION REQUIRED. This course is designed to develop students' skills in yearbook and digital media production by providing experiences in selected aspects of yearbook production. Students learn basic principles of yearbook production and develop skills that include writing copy, captions, and headlines; digital photography; desktop publishing and using appropriate technology tools for media production. This class is responsible for both the Daily News and Announcements and producing the yearbook due at the end of February. Students will have the highest expectations for both their academic and social responsibilities at Kennedy Middle School. Please note that yearbook staffers may be asked to spend extra time during lunch, before/after school, and during intersessions to help the publication meet the strict deadlines set by the publisher.