

2025-26 HIDDEN VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL 8TH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Art Foundations I: Art Foundations 1 provides an overview of visual arts while studying a broad variety of art tools and materials. With an emphasis on studio production, this course is designed to develop higher-level thinking, art related technology skills, art criticism, art history and aesthetics.

Art Foundations II (Pre-req: Art Foundations I): Art Foundations 2 provides an overview and introduction to visual arts through studying a variety of art tools and materials. This course builds on Foundations 1 with a more in-depth experience with fewer art forms. This course is designed to develop higher-level thinking, art related technology skills, art criticism, art history, and aesthetics, with an emphasis on studio production.

Band I: (Beginning Band): This is a beginning-level band class for students wishing to learn to play woodwind or brass instruments such as Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet, Trombone etc. Practice and performances outside of class time are part of this course and contribute to a student's grade. Instruments may be rented from the school, subject to availability. 7th-grade students interested in playing percussion instruments should register for Band 1 and contact Mr. Ashcraft for information about auditions.

Band II - Honors (Pre-req: Band I or teacher approval by audition): This is an advanced-level band class for students in their 2nd or third year of playing their instrument. Practice and performances outside of class time are part of this course and contribute to a student's grade. Instruments may be rented from the school, subject to availability.

Ceramics I: Ceramics develops basic skills in the creation of 3-D forms and pottery from clay. Techniques in hand building, wheel throwing, basic glazing, and firing are taught. With an emphasis on studio production, this course is designed to develop higher-level thinking and art-related technology skills. Some art criticism, art history, and aesthetics may be included.

Concert Choir: (pre-req or audition) This is a vocal music course that requires teacher approval and previous choir experience. Music is more advanced than in tenor and treble choirs. Emphasis is placed on higher-level choral singing.

Creative Writing: This course, based on Utah English Language Arts (ELA) Core Writing Standards, is designed to introduce students to imaginative composition with the writing of personal experiences, character sketches, short fiction, and poetry. Students will have the opportunity to prepare manuscripts for publication, awards, and scholarships.

Dance I: This course offers basic dance techniques, fitness fundamentals, movement qualities and rhythm with an emphasis on creativity, sequencing and problem solving.

Dance II (Pre-req: Dance I): This course offers basic dance techniques, fitness fundamentals, movement qualities, and rhythm with an emphasis on creativity, sequencing, and problem solving.

Dance / Company (Advanced) (Required: Audition April 5th & 6th): A course designed to enhance and develop all aspects of dance technique and composition, emphasizing creativity and artistic choreographic skills. There will be performances outside of class time that are part of the course requirements, and they will constitute a portion of the grade.

Drawing I: Drawing focuses on black and white or monochromatic rendering from life, pictures, masterworks, and imagination. This course is designed to develop higher-level thinking and art-related technology skills with an emphasis on studio production. Some experiences in art criticism, art history, and aesthetics may be included.

Exploring Technology: Exploring Technology is an action-based course that introduces students to the technological systems of two or more of the following areas: energy-power technologies, information and communications technologies, transportation technologies, manufacturing technologies, and construction technologies. The course is designed around exploration in cooperative and individualized activities rather than project and skill development.

FACS: This Family and Consumer Science course provides students with the essential life skills. The course allows students to develop skills in two or more of the following areas: food and nutrition, childcare and safety, interior design and care of a home, clothing construction and style, consumerism, family relationships, personal responsibility, and job-related skills.

Guitar 1: This course provides opportunities for students to develop their musical potential and aesthetic understanding through learning to play a guitar. Emphasis is placed on playing position, tone production, fundamental technique, simultaneous playing and singing, reading music, and composing songs/lyrics. Knowledge and skills will include experiences in singing, playing, listening, and connecting to cultures. Instrument required.

Orchestra I (Beginning Orchestra): This is a beginning-level orchestra class for students wishing to learn to play string instruments such as Violin, Viola, Cello, and Bass. Practice and performances outside of class time are part of this course and contribute to a student's grade. Instruments may be rented from the school, subject to availability.

Orchestra II (Honors Orchestra) (Pre-req: Orchestra I or teacher approval with audition): This is an advanced-level orchestra class for students in their 2nd or 3rd year of playing their instrument. Practice and performances outside of class time are part of this course and contribute to a student's grade. Instruments may be rented from the school, subject to availability.

Painting I: Painting 1 includes wet and dry color media with processes such as transparent and opaque painting focusing on the properties of color. Techniques with color media mixing and application will be covered. With an emphasis on studio production, this course is designed to develop higher-level thinking skills and art-related technology skills. Some art criticism, art history, and aesthetics may be included.

Percussion I (Intermediate Percussion): This is an intermediate-level percussion class for students wishing to play Percussion and are in their 1st or 2nd year of playing. This is not a beginning-level music class, some previous music experience is required on another instrument. Practice and performances outside of class time are part of this course and contribute to a student's grade. All percussion students rent percussion instruments and equipment from the school for a fee.

Percussion II (Honors Percussion) (Pre-req: Perc I or Teacher Sig): This is an advanced-level percussion class for students in their 2nd or 3rd year of playing Percussion. Practice and performances outside of class time are part of this course and contribute to a student's grade. All percussion students rent percussion instruments and equipment from the school for a fee.

Portuguese Brazil History & Culture (DLI Students Only): This course continues the development of speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. Narratives and dialogues are used to teach structure and vocabulary. Culture and geography of the Portuguese-speaking countries are taught through reading selections. For dual immersion students only.

Python I - A beginning course for non experienced programmers. Students learn and practice coding using python programming language.

Python II - (Pre-req: Python I): A quality computer science curriculum that not only engages students in interesting, collaborative learning activities using sound pedagogical strategies, but it also ensures that students are learning concepts vital to the deep and broad field of computer science. Python has been designed to achieve this goal by aligning with the CSTA K-12 Computer Science Standards. This course is primarily an introductory programming course, and units are grounded in an array of standards from the strands of computational thinking, collaboration, computing practice and programming, computer and communication devices, and community, global and ethical impacts.

Reading H: This course, based on the 8th Grade Utah English Language Arts (ELA) Core Standards, is designed for students who qualify for more advanced instruction in reading and comprehension, vocabulary, and reading skills for reading above grade level literary, informational, and functional texts.

Soprano/Alto Choir (traditionally female voices): This choir is for 7th grade singers whose range is in the middle of the piano or higher. Emphasis is placed on quality vocal production, individual and group singing, and music reading skills. Rehearsals and performances outside of class time are part of the course requirement and will constitute a portion of the grade.

Spanish I: This course is designed to teach elementary skills in listening, speaking, reading and spelling. The curriculum covered in this course will give students the skills to communicate in culturally-appropriate ways in the target language. By the end of this course, student skill level should be at novice-mid level according to the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language (ACTFL) standards. Students will develop an appreciation for the culture of the countries where the language is spoken.

Spanish II (Pre-req: Spanish I): This course is designed to teach intermediate skills in listening, speaking, reading and spelling. The curriculum covered in this course will give students the skill to communicate in culturally-appropriate ways in the target language. By the end of this course, students' skill level should be at novice-high level according to the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language (ACTFL) standards. Students will develop an appreciation of the culture of the countries where the language is spoken.

Spanish for Native Speakers: This course is designed to teach elementary academic skills in reading and writing for the native speaker. The course content includes further development of reading and writing skills for students who already have a grasp of the spoken language. Opportunities to share cultural information from countries where Spanish is spoken will be available to students.

Stage Design: This course teaches scenery construction, scenery painting and all other aspects of production for school musicals and plays.

Student Aide - This is a Semester course that offers students a unique experience working with teachers. This position provides an opportunity to observe and model an adult at work. It provides a wide range of learning opportunities in areas such as life skills, human development, and career exploration. Teacher aides experience the opportunity to practice reliable citizenship and social skills as they interact with peers, school staff and the general public. **Student will receive a pass or fail grade (P/F).*

Tenor/Bass Choir: (traditionally male voices): This choir is for 7th grade singers whose range is in the middle of the piano or lower. Emphasis is placed on quality vocal production, individual and group singing, and music reading skills. Rehearsals and performances outside of class time are part of the course requirement and will constitute a portion of the grade.

Theatre (Beginning): There are two basic goals in theatre education: finding meaning in works of theatre art through the study and appreciation of theatre as an art form, and constructing meaning in works of theatre art through film analysis, improvisation and the following competitive areas: dramatic and humorous interpretations, mono acting, scenes from plays and pantomime.

Theatre (Intermediate) (Pre-req: Beginning Theatre): This is an intermediate course in theatre with an emphasis on performance and playwriting. The course will include, but not be limited to, playwriting, characterization, monologues, scenes from plays, movement, voice projection and diction and improvisation. Other skills learned and developed include critical thinking, rehearsal skills, plot structure, reading, writing and cooperative group work.

Theatre (Musical) (Pre-req: Beginning Theatre): This is a performing arts elective course focusing on musical theatre productions.

Weight Training I: This is a physical education course designed to give students the opportunity to learn weight training concepts and techniques used for obtaining optimal physical fitness. Students will benefit from comprehensive weight training and cardiorespiratory endurance activities. Students will learn the basic fundamentals of weight training, strength training, aerobic training, and overall fitness training and conditioning. Course includes both lecture and activity sessions. Students will be empowered to make wise choices, meet challenges and develop positive behaviors in fitness, wellness and movement activity for a lifetime.

Yoga: This class focuses on structural alignment, increase of strength, and flexibility. It will deepen a student's awareness of breath and the role it has in generating energy and stamina in one's mind and body. The course will also incorporate techniques for stress relief, and enhance one's physical performance by teaching students how to connect breath, organ systems, physiology, and anatomy all together.