

# Alder Creek Middle School

## Elective Course Catalog

2023-2024



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AVID

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## General Disclaimer

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The information given by students during the forecasting process is used to create the school-wide schedule for the following year. While a student may not receive all of the classes they forecasted for, once the student's schedule has been created there is very little chance that the scheduling team will be able to change it. Schedule change requests will be reviewed by the scheduling team, and decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis.

## 6th Grade Elective Wheel

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### Elective Wheel (Yearlong)

**Prerequisite:** None

**Fee:** TBD

**Grade Level:** 6th

**Repeats:** No

Students who select this elective option will be randomly assigned four of the below electives for a brief, one-quarter introductory class.

**MUSIC 6:** In this class, students will learn about different instruments, different genres, rhythms, finding the story in music, how to be a music researcher, and other topics related to music. We will experience music from all over the world in a way that honors a diversity of cultures. The goal is to inspire students to continue making music a daily part of their lives long after the class.

**LEADERSHIP 6:** This class explores the concepts of intrapersonal and interpersonal skills through activities, games, and various group challenges! This is an active approach to developing leadership skills, such as effective listening, communication, and group collaboration.

**FACS 6:** What is FACS? Family and Consumer Science! Topics may include Consumer awareness, nutrition, kitchen safety and sanitation, and basic food preparation. All students will participate in cooking labs where their team will follow recipes in making delicious foods such as Cheesy Mexican Rice, Cinnamon Marshmallow Surprise, Smoothies and more.

**ART 6:** Curious about art? Not sure if you like drawing, painting, or sculpture most of all? You're in luck because in this quarter long class we try a little of everything! The focus is on exploration, self-expression, and skill development. We will study drawing/cartooning, painting and clay. Students will maintain a sketchbook/journal as part of the course.

**AVID 6:** AVID provides students with the necessary skills to be successful in high school, college, and future careers. The AVID elective class provides support to help students meet high expectations, both in academics and in character building. AVID helps students develop skills in communication, organization, note-taking, and time management.

# Leadership

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## Leadership 1 (1 Semester)

**Prerequisite:** None

**Grade Level:** 7th or 8th

**Fee:** None

**Repeats:** Yes, once per year

This is a 7th/8th grade elective class that will focus on the concepts of servant leadership and support students as they develop their own leadership style. Students will explore the skills of selflessness, respect, forgiveness, humility, gratitude, and empathy through hands-on activities and practical application. This class is filled with activities to promote collaboration and community to empower students and elevate all voices.

## Advanced Leadership (1 Semester or Yearlong)

**Prerequisite:** Previous Leadership class

**Grade Level:** 7th or 8th

**Fee:** None

**Repeats:** Yes

This is a 7th/8th grade elective class that will take a project-based approach to applying the skills from Leadership within the school environment. Students will participate in our weekly Unified Buddies program (pair up with students in the building to promote social inclusion), plan school events and activities that build positive relationships and create an inclusive school environment. Students are expected to demonstrate independent work skills, a high level of personal responsibility, accountability and the ability to work in groups. Students may take this for either a semester or a full year.

## Student Council Class (1 Semester or Yearlong)

**Prerequisite:** Previous Leadership class

**Grade Level:** 7th or 8th

**Fee:** None

**Repeats:** Yes

This class is for 7th/8th grade students who are motivated to make a positive impact in the school. This class will be in charge of planning and organizing lunchtime activities, Fun Days, service projects and other school events that align with student goals. Students also work and manage the student store. Students are expected to demonstrate independent work skills, a high level of personal responsibility, accountability and the ability to work in groups. Students may take this for either a semester or a full year.

# ACMS Live!

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## ACMS Live! (1 Semester)

**Prerequisite:** None

**Grade Level:** 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup>

**Fee:** TBD

**Repeats:** Yes

In this course you will learn the basics of video production, editing, and composition. We will focus on learning how to effectively use our video camera and editing software. We will focus on projects related to commercials, music videos, and digital storytelling. This class provides the basis for the ACMS Live! yearlong class.

## ACMS Live! (Yearlong)

**Prerequisite:** None

**Fee:** TBD

**Grade Level:** 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup>

**Repeats:** Yes

We will continue to build on the momentum of previous years by creating content for our school's announcements. We will learn how to produce live announcements each class period, learn the basics of video production, and methods to promote and enhance the culture of the school. We will also be developing skills in live video production for school events. The goal of the class is to continue a culture of academics and show our school and community the amazing work being done at Alder Creek.

## Engineer It!

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### Engineering 1 (1 Semester)

**Prerequisite:** None

**Fee:** TBD

**Grade Level:** 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup>

**Repeats:** No

In this course students will be exploring basic coding methods and applying what they learn to complete Lego Robotics challenges. Students will explore and apply their learning through designing and creating basic video games with SCRATCH and move into the design and building of lego robots. Students will be expected to be a positive member of a team as well as be independent managers of themselves.

### Engineering 2 (1 Semester)

**Prerequisite:** None

**Fee:** TBD

**Grade Level:** 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup>

**Repeats:** No

In this course students will be introduced to the engineering and physics of flight. Students will explore and apply their learning through designing planes, parachutes, rockets, and other things that fall and fly. Students will be expected to be a positive member of a team as well as be independent managers of themselves.

## Family & Consumer Science

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### Cooking on a Budget (1 Semester)

**Prerequisite:** None

**Fee:** TBD

**Grade Level:** 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup>

**Repeats:** No

This course introduces students to basic consumer information when purchasing goods and services. Factors that influence food-buying decisions will be explored, such as advertising, merchandising, and unit-pricing. All students will participate in cooking labs where their team will follow recipes to make these cost effective, delicious snacks, meals, and desserts, such as: German Pancakes, Cheesy Omelets, Cinnamon Rolls, Funfetti Cookies, Cheese and Pepperoni Pizza, Bacon & Cheese Frittatas, Oreo Cookie Cake, Lunch Box Pizza, Manicotti, Cheesy Enchiladas, Scones and Smoothies.

## **Food Science (1 Semester)**

**Prerequisite:** None

**Grade Level:** 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup>

**Fee:** TBD

**Repeats:** No

This course introduces students to the science of making delicious dishes. Students will be exposed to the field of food science, as they match raw ingredients with finished food products. Students will participate in cooking labs with their team to make delicious snacks, meals, and desserts, such as: Couscous, Ice Cream, Hot Fudge, Fancy Fried Rice, Honey Mustard Dressing and Salad, Buttermilk Raisin Muffins, Double Chocolate Muffins, Dinner Rolls, Home-made Butter, Strawberry Jam, Lollipops, Summer Fruit Salad, Deviled Egg Pasta Salad, S'Mores Cookie Bars, Smoothies, and more!

## **Understanding Children (1 Semester)**

**Prerequisite:** None

**Grade Level:** 8<sup>th</sup> only

**Fee:** TBD (Computerized Baby rental)

**Repeats:** No

Young children are studied from their physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development, with a special emphasis on infants through preschool ages. The class is taught through discussion, handouts, written work, guest speakers, and hands-on labs. One hands-on activity is the "Baby Think It Over" program. The focus of this program is teaching the responsibilities of parenting. It culminates in a weekend experience with a computerized infant simulator. If a student decides to do the baby project, there is a rental fee. Other specific areas of study may include children's books and crafts, music, safety, and nutritious foods. The class emphasizes being a positive role model at all times.

## **Art**

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### **Ceramics/3D Design (1 Semester)**

**Prerequisite:** None

**Grade Level:** 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup>

**Fee:** TBD

**Repeats:** No

Do you like working with your hands? Not afraid to get a little messy? Ceramics class may be for you! This art form definitely endures the test of time; human beings have been making wonderful things out of clay for centuries! This one semester class focuses on the history and science of clay as well as the making of functional objects like mugs and bowls as well as decorative sculptures out of clay. All work is glazed and fired, and students get to keep their creations. We will cover pinch, slab and coil construction, with a focus on surface textures. Bring the patience needed to create objects of beauty and quality. Students will maintain a sketchbook/journal as part of the course.

### **Drawing & Painting (1 Semester)**

**Prerequisite:** None

**Grade Level:** 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup>

**Fee:** TBD

**Repeats:** No

Do you like to draw and paint or simply want to improve your skills? Do you enjoy creating images that tell a story? Either way, this class is sure to challenge and inspire you! Students will explore various drawing media, painting and collage. Students will experiment with techniques to improve their drawing and painting skills using a variety of drawing media. If you think you 'can't draw or paint' this is a great class to learn how! Students will maintain a sketchbook/journal as part of the course.

## **Advanced Studio Art (Yearlong)**

**Prerequisite: Proficiency & Teacher Permission**

**Grade Level: 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Fee: TBD**

**Repeats: Yes**

Would you describe yourself as an artist? Are others impressed by your artistic ability and dedication? Do you take every opportunity to learn about and practice your art? Then this yearlong class is definitely the place for you! In this yearlong class, you will explore in greater depth the role of the artist, and develop your own work and themes. Drawing, painting, and clay are explored. In addition, we will cover topics not covered in the single semester classes, such as calligraphy, photography, fiber art, and more (it can change from year to year). Students are required to maintain and work in a large sketchbook all year (provided). Each year we go on at least one field trip to the Portland Art Museum, and together we create a work of art to permanently enhance our school. Demonstration of previous art class proficiency at "C" grade or better required. Can't wait to see what we'll do!

## **Performance Arts**

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### **Beginning Choir (Yearlong)**

**Prerequisite: None**

**Grade Level: 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Fee: TBD**

**Repeats: Yes**

This class is designed for students who love to sing, want to try singing for the first time, or who need to develop their skills further to qualify for the Advanced choir. Students will learn the basic fundamentals of singing with others, vocal health, and basic music literacy through reading music. Students will develop their choral singing through daily warm ups and by exploring a variety of musical genres. Each student is expected to participate in class, in all performances, and will be responsible for wearing appropriate concert attire during performances. Can't wait to sing together!

### **Advanced Choir (Yearlong)**

**Prerequisite: Director Approval by Audition**

**Grade Level: 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Fee: TBD**

**Repeats: Yes**

This course is open to advanced 6th, 7th, and 8th grade singers who have taken Beginning Choir OR have successfully completed an audition with the director. This choir is for students who love to sing, want extra performance opportunities, and want to work on bettering their musicianship beyond the basics they already know. Great musical improvement is gained in sight-singing, vocal quality, and performance abilities by students who are able to invest their time in this yearlong course. This choir represents our school in music assemblies, choir festivals, and the elementary performance tour. Each student is expected to participate in class, in all performances, and will be responsible for purchasing and renting concert attire. This class leads by example for representing the choral department at Alder Creek. To audition, please contact the director, Ryan DeHaven, at [dehavenr@nclack.k12.or.us](mailto:dehavenr@nclack.k12.or.us). Can't wait to sing together!

## **Beginning Band (Yearlong)**

**Prerequisite:** None

**Fee:** TBD

**Grade Level:** 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup>

**Repeats:** Yes

This class is designed for students wishing to learn to play a band instrument for the first time or who need to further develop their skills in order to qualify for upper-level bands. There will be required evening concerts, and students will be required to practice outside regular school time. The school has a limited number of instruments available. It is recommended that students rent their own instruments.

## **Intermediate Band (Yearlong)**

**Prerequisite:** Director Approval

**Fee:** TBD

**Grade Level:** 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup>

**Repeats:** Yes

Fundamentals of musicianship will be emphasized and a variety of musical styles will be performed. Students will be required to practice outside regular school time. There will be required evening concerts as well as possible daytime performances. Students may possibly participate in off-campus solo and band festivals. The school has a limited number of instruments available. It is recommended that students rent their own instruments.

## **Advanced Band (Yearlong)**

**Prerequisite:** Director Approval

**Fee:** TBD

**Grade Level:** 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup>

**Repeats:** Yes

Advanced Band continues to develop high-level musicianship that is needed to perform challenging music. Students perform a variety of music styles appropriate for their level of development. Students are required to practice their instrument outside of class. There are required evening concerts as well as possible daytime performances, both on- and off-campus. The school has a limited number of instruments available. It is recommended that students rent their own instruments.

## **Jazz Band (Yearlong)**

**Prerequisite:** Director Approval

**Fee:** TBD

**Grade Level:** 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup>

**Repeats:** Yes

Jazz Band is a secondary music class for students who are also enrolled in Intermediate or Advanced Band. This class will focus on the origins of jazz and learning to play in a "swing" style. We will play music from the big band era as well as some contemporary combo charts.

## **Beginning Orchestra (Yearlong)**

**Prerequisite:** None

**Fee:** TBD

**Grade Level:** 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup>

**Repeats:** Yes

This class teaches students how to play songs on either violin, viola, cello, or stand-up bass for the first time. Community and finding joy in continued musical growth are key components of the class. Students will perform at several concerts throughout the year. Attendance at all performances and a concert clothes purchase are mandatory. Instrument rentals from a local music shop are preferred with a limited number of school instruments available for families who need assistance financially. I look forward to making great music with you!



## **Intermediate Orchestra (Yearlong)**

**Prerequisite:** Director Approval

**Fee:** TBD

**Grade Level:** 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup>

**Repeats:** Yes

This class is for students who have already had at least one year of instruction in either violin, viola, cello, or stand-up bass. Community and finding joy in continued musical growth are key components of the class. Students will perform at several concerts throughout the year. Attendance at all performances and a concert clothes purchase are mandatory. Instrument rentals from a local music shop are preferred with a limited number of school instruments available for families who need assistance financially. I look forward to making great music with you!

## **Advanced Orchestra (Yearlong)**

**Prerequisite:** Audition and Director Approval

**Fee:** TBD

**Grade Level:** 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup>

**Repeats:** Yes

This class is for students who have already had at least one year of instruction in either violin, viola, cello, or stand-up bass. Community and finding joy in continued musical growth are key components of the class. Students will perform at several concerts throughout the year as well as community performances and Elementary Tour. The class is open by audition only. Attendance at all performances and a concert clothes purchase are mandatory. Instrument rentals from a local music shop are preferred with a limited number of school instruments available for families who need assistance financially. I look forward to making great music with you!

## **Elements of Theater**

**Prerequisite:** None

**Fee:** TBD

**Grade Level:** 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>

**Repeats:** No

In this class, students are encouraged to experiment with theatre and building theatrical skills. Some students may have had experience in theatre, or maybe they have always wondered what goes on behind the scenes in a theatre production; regardless of their experience, this class guides students through exploring the basics of theatre and how to learn these skills. We participate in team-building activities and many fun drama games that push students out of their comfort zone, teaching them a lot about themselves and each other in the process. Students will learn improvisation skills, how to develop comedic timing, what all the parts of a theatre are, the importance of working together on large projects, and so much more. Come explore theatre and have a great time! If you have questions, please contact Ryan DeHaven at [dehavenr@nclack.k12.or.us](mailto:dehavenr@nclack.k12.or.us).

# World Language

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## Introduction to Spanish (1 Semester)

**Prerequisite:** None

**Grade Level:** 7th and 8th

**Fee:** None

**Repeats:** No

This beginning Spanish class introduces students to the Spanish language with basic skills in conversation, vocabulary, grammar, high frequency phrases and pronunciation. This exciting, interactive introductory language class prepares students for the high school level Spanish 1 course. Cultural studies of Spanish speaking countries and cultures are also highlighted in this curriculum.

\*Consistent participation and work completion is needed for success in this class to be eligible for Spanish 1. Showing proficiency in Introduction to Spanish with a C or higher, is the prerequisite for Spanish 1. Final approval for Spanish 1 will be made by the Spanish teacher and administration.

## Spanish 1 (Yearlong)

**Prerequisite:** Introduction to Spanish proficiency

**Grade Level:** 8th

**Fee:** None

**Repeats:** No

Spanish 1 is a second level foreign language course that covers communication in forms of reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students will study Spanish in both the Comprehensible Input format of natural language acquisition thorough input along with traditional grammatical instruction. Consistent participation and work completion is needed for success in this class. Cultural studies of the Spanish speaking world enrich the content of these language studies.

Spanish 1 is a high school credit course. Success in class grade and performance will result in a 1.0 high school credit, and will affect the student's high school GPA. Showing proficiency in Introduction to Spanish with a C or higher, is the prerequisite for this class. Final approval for Spanish 1 will be made by the Spanish teacher and administration.

## AVID

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### AVID

**Prerequisite:** None

**Grade Level:** 7<sup>th</sup> & 8th

**Fee:** None

**Repeats:** Yes

AVID provides students with the necessary skills to be successful in high school, college, and future careers. The AVID elective class provides support to help students meet high expectations, both in academics and in character building. AVID helps students develop skills in communication, organization, note-taking, peer tutoring, and time management. This class requires a year long commitment.

# Physical Education

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## Beginning Strength Training (1 semester)

**Prerequisite:** None

**Grade Level:** 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup>

**Fee:** None

**Repeats:** No

This active class is for 7th and 8th grade students interested in getting a jump-start to a healthy lifestyle and lifelong fitness by working out. Alder Creek has one of the best middle school weight rooms in Oregon and you can take advantage of it. The students will learn the general rules of a weight room and how to safely and efficiently work out on all the equipment. They will learn the major bones and the major muscles of the body and the exercises that work these muscles. They will have a chance to explore many different ways of achieving a healthy body by participating in various types of workouts.

## Advanced Strength Training (1 semester)

**Prerequisite:** A passing grade in Beginning Strength Training

**Grade Level:** 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup>

**Fee:** None

**Repeats:** Yes, once per year

This second level class is for 7th and 8th grade students who have already taken Beginning Strength Training. The students will review things learned from Beginning Strength Training and will spend the majority of their time in this class working out applying those things they learned. They will get to identify their personal fitness interests and **design a personal workout program** targeting those interests. They will then physically do the personal program that they have developed. Advanced Strength Training is a **GREAT** extension to the beginning class.

## Unified PE

**Prerequisite:** Teacher Permission Required

**Grade Level:** 7th or 8th

**Fee:** None

**Repeats:** Yes\*

*\*Unified PE fulfills the PE requirement and is not an elective.*

Unified Physical Education (P.E.) is a unique opportunity for students of varying ability levels and backgrounds to come together on equal terms through ongoing fitness, sports, leadership and wellness activities. Unified P.E. focuses on the physical, intellectual and social growth of all participants. Engaging in physical activity and sport alongside peers with and without disabilities helps to foster important social relationships.