

EL RANCHO CHARTER SCHOOL

8th Grade Elective Courses

***Read all elective class descriptions before choosing.
Electives may not be changed during the school year.***

Supplemental applications available at www.elranchocharterschool.org

ADVANCED COMPUTERS



This course is designed to teach technology as a tool to be used for more effective educational and leisure time computer use. Projects utilizing a variety of software applications will be incorporated into the class. Problem solving, creativity, organization and responsibility will be encouraged. Goal-setting in terms of educational plans for the future will be addressed through an in depth exploration of careers and educational institutions. Students will be given the opportunity to work independently as well as in groups. New technologies will be implemented as they become classroom ready.

Prerequisite: Students must have taken the Elective Wheel Computers course.

ASB/LEADERSHIP



The ASB Leadership Class is a year-long elective open to 7th and 8 grade students who are highly motivated to improve their leadership skills by their involvement in classroom activities, student government, student and staff recognition programs, student activities, and school/community procedures. Students must have a 2.50 GPA with no “D’s” or “F’s” and no “N’s” or “U’s” in citizenship. Visit the El Rancho website, under “Programs” to download a form.

Teacher recommendation and instructor approval required—application online under “Registration” → “8th Grade” → “Leadership.”

AVID



AVID provides students with instruction in academic study skills such as time management, note taking, textbook reading, library research, as well as maintaining AVID binders. Students also focus on specific writing strategies such as comparing and contrasting of information. AVID students will work in collaborative groups with other students in student run tutorial study groups. Throughout the year, career and college guest speakers will discuss with the students different job and educational opportunities available to them. **AVID is only available to 8th grade students who were enrolled in AVID during their 7th grade year.**

BEGINNING BAND



This course provides beginning skill in performing on musical instruments. Appreciation of music, knowledge of musical literature and musical structure are included.

Choir



In Vocal Music, students will enhance their literacy in not just music, but form connections to other core subjects as well. Students will learn the history of music both sacred and secular, sing in a variety of different languages, and form a sound foundation of proper vocal technique and production, on top of enhancing their knowledge of music theory. Students will then showcase their skills through performance opportunities galore. Whereas fall semester will focus more on traditional and classical works for a concert in the winter months, spring semester will embrace the popular works of today in the style of show choir. This new show choir will compete in area festivals and competitions. Therefore one day a week will be devoted to developing the students' movement technique as well. Above all, students will be challenged to experiment, take risks, and have fun! The Vocal Music program will be open to all students.

CLERICAL SERVICE



Clerical service will enable students to explore office procedures through actual practice in the attendance office, advisors' offices and the general office of the school. Students perform a variety of tasks such as writing and delivering call slips, making copies, alphabetizing and other related tasks.

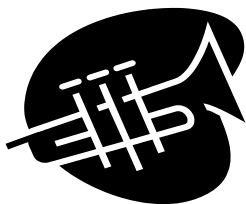
To qualify, students may not have a D, F, N or U during their 7th grade year. Teacher recommendation and advisor approval required. Application on ERCS website under "Registration Materials."

Communication Technology-iPad




Comm Tech-iPad is a year-long, bring your own device, course offering at El Rancho Charter School. The course of study is rigorous, creative, and fast-paced in nature, which will focus on making students active problem solvers, critical thinkers, and advanced users of the iPad. The course will maintain a highly structured approach that will emphasize active student participation, sharing, collaboration, and organization.

CONCERT BAND*




Students who have prior experience playing a musical instrument or have been part of the elementary band program should consider this course. Increasing skill in performing on musical instruments is provided. Appreciation of music, knowledge of musical literature and of musical structures is included. Please contact Mrs. Streeter at El Rancho for additional information. (***Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation required.**)

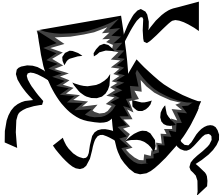
CREATIVE WRITING

	<p>This course will focus on the various writing techniques and styles within the creative writing field. Some writing styles covered include poetry, creative non-fiction, playwriting/screenwriting, satires/parodies, folktales, model telling, and story-within-a-story. Specific techniques addressed will include point-of-view, setting, extended comparisons, opposites, active verbs, compare/contrast, and symbolism. The class will lead students in the process of brainstorming and developing creative concepts through various writing techniques. Students will create a portfolio of varied, personal work. A heavy requirement of writing and reading will be necessary for this class.</p>
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DANCE – P. E. ALTERNATIVE*

	<p>This course will explore technical and expressive elements of dance. Instruction will be in the fields of ballet, tap, jazz, and hip-hop. Technique will include exercises to develop flexibility, strength, control, coordination, and form. Basic warm-ups, movement steps, as well as compositional skills will provide development of motor coordination, increased dance form, rhythm, and technical skills in these areas. Jazz shoes will be required. (*This class may be taken in lieu of a regular P.E. class.)</p>
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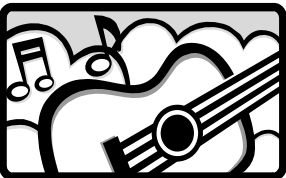
THEATRE ARTS/DRAMA

	<p>A basic overview of "what is theatre?" This course explores the elements and vocabulary of theatre. This course will establish the foundation for acting technique. Students will learn basic interpretation, improvisational skills, text and character analysis, and exploring objectives through theatre exercises, games, monologues, and scenes.</p>
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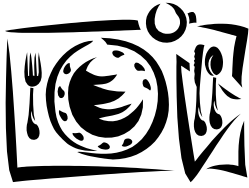
DRAWING AND PAINTING

	<p>Are you a person who loves to sketch and paint and want to know more? Well, here is your chance fellow Artists! Not only will you learn how to draw quality portraits, but you'll learn how to draw them bigger. Students will also create a variety of visual illusions, paint with acrylic and watercolors, and use the techniques of master artists throughout the ages. Drawing and painting is a year-long Art course open to all 8th graders. A genuine interest and willingness to try new things and some creative problem skills are helpful.</p>
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GUITAR

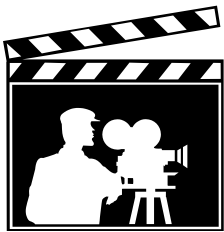
	<p>The Guitar class provides instruction on the six-string classical guitar and consists of students with varying abilities and experiences. Given the soloistic nature of the instrument, the course is a self-directed class where students are encouraged to explore the guitar at their own pace. Students are required to bring their own instrument, as there are no school-owned guitars available. Electric guitars are acceptable but may only be used without amplifiers. Students will need to obtain their own method book for this class. Additional music will be provided for advanced students. Students are also welcome to bring their own materials that they would like to study independently.</p>
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HOME ECONOMICS



Love watching cooking shows on TV? Enjoy being creative and crafting? Then this class is for you! Home Economics explores a wide world of culinary cuisines and teaches students about nutritional information and how to prepare foods from sushi to lasagna to crepes. Students will participate in a cake-decorating unit where they will design and make 3-5 layer themed cakes and they will complete a restaurant unit where they will run a restaurant with real customers! We will learn about many crucial aspects of life including relationships, nutrition, child development and finances. Sewing and textiles is utilized to create fun projects such as PJ pants, pillowcases, drawstring backpacks and seasonal crafts.

iFilm CLASS



Do you have a secret desire to be the next great photographer, filmmaker or YouTube sensation? Do you have a great eye and genius ideas but no one to show you how to turn them into visual magic? Welcome to your answer: iFilm class. Students will learn the secrets of digital photography and film iPhoto, iMovie and GarageBand to create original images, movies using MacBooks and digital recording tools. No photo or movie making experience or knowledge of MacBook laptops is required. Year-long course. Open to 8th graders. **Teacher recommendation and instructor approval required—application online under “Registration Materials.”**

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY



The focus of the Industrial Technology program is the study of technology through the use of activities and hands-on projects. In this program students will draw on their skills, aptitudes, and intellect, to design and safely build projects, problem solve, read working drawings, collect and analyze data, draw conclusions, safely use hand and power tools, and reflect on their work. This class uses projects as a vehicle to teach these processes.

INTERMEDIATE BAND



Increasing skill in performing on a musical instrument, including progressive facility in group performance. Appreciation of music, knowledge of musical literature, and musical structures. Please contact Mrs. Streeter at El Rancho for additional information.

LIBRARY MEDIA SCIENCE



Students enrolled in this course will receive practice in the daily operation of the middle school media center including research ability, clerical tasks, technical functions, and creative experience. **To qualify for Library Media Science students must meet certain academic and citizenship requirements.** Please speak with the Librarian for an application form if you are interested in this position.

MUSICAL THEATRE*



This year-long course is open to 7th and 8th grade students by audition and teacher recommendation only, and enables students to study, rehearse, and perform scenes from the world of musical theater. The student will gain experience in rehearsing and performing ensemble, partnered, and solo selections. Students will participate in a special show and a Dinner Theater Musical Production incorporating all elements of the Musical Theatre. Please call Ms. Pitzak at El Rancho for additional information. (***Audition required.**)

PERCUSSION*



The Percussion Class is designed for any student with or without previous music training. The class will adhere to the Visual and Performing Arts Standards, emphasizing reading and playing a variety of rhythms and rhythm instruments. Instruction will be based on the 32 drum rudiments. Students will also have an opportunity to perform individually and as a group. Each student will need to supply their own drum pad and stand, drum sticks and method book.

PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS



Photoshop Elements is professional image (picture) editing software and an industry standard for graphic designers, web designers and photographers, but can include many more occupations as well. Anyone who needs or wants to manipulate (change) an image (picture) will find a great use for Photoshop, including the home user. We live in a digital world and it is time you learn to master it... picture by picture.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER'S ASSISTANT*



This class is designed for students who are excellent both academically and behaviorally. Students are expected to be able to work with individual and small groups of students in an instructional setting. These students must have the ability and rapport to effectively direct students on the athletic field, in the locker room, and during warm-up activities. In addition, students enrolled in this class may have responsibilities including equipment distribution and collection, assisting locker room management, and clerical duties. **Students interested in this position must meet academic and citizenship requirements. Please see Mr. Kilgore for an application form. *(Instructor recommendation required.)**

SPANISH 1B



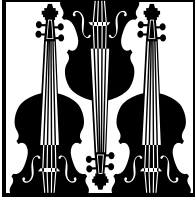
Spanish 1B facilitates the exploration of the fascinating world of Spanish speaking people by learning their language and culture through various communicative techniques. The speaking, reading, and writing skills acquired at this level will also help students survive when traveling to these countries. Completion of the second year provides the equivalency of the first year of high school foreign language.

SPANISH 1



Spanish 1 facilitates the exploration of the fascinating world of Spanish speaking people by learning their language and culture through various communicative techniques. The speaking, reading, and writing skills acquired at this level will also help students survive when traveling to these countries. Completion of this full year provides the equivalency of the first year of high school foreign language. **Pre-Requisite: Due the fast paced curriculum, students must have a 3.0 GPA to take the full-year course.**

STRINGS



This course is a combination of beginners and students with experience in performing on string instruments. Appreciation of music, knowledge of musical literature and musical structure are introduced.

YEARBOOK*



Are you creative and responsible enough to capture memories as they unfold? If you are, then you might be just what we're looking for! Join the yearbook staff and become part of the team that helps everyone remember 7th and 8th grade life at El Rancho Charter School. Students will learn the secrets of digital cameras and professional software programs such as Adobe Photoshop and InDesign in this year-long course. **Teacher recommendation and instructor approval required—application online under “Registration” → “8th Grade” → “Yearbook.”**



El Rancho Charter School

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