

# 2017-2018 FIRST AVENUE ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

*Some elective classes may not be offered or may be full.*

On the Power School Class Registration Screen, you will request elective classes for next year. If you have a scheduling conflict, or if the class is full or not offered, you will be placed into an alternate elective class. Don't worry, there are no bad electives at First Avenue! Every elective class will provide you with an opportunity to put your classroom knowledge into practice and to learn new skills. No changes will be made once the schedule has been created so *Choose Wisely, Choose Once!*

**ART** – All art courses may be repeated

## **2D/3D ARTISTS' WORKSHOP** - (7th and 8th grade; 1 Semester)

Like to make things? Create amazing sculptures and 2D artworks as you explore printmaking techniques, sculpture, metal foil, paper crafts, scratchboard, jewelry making, and a variety of additional crafts media. This class will also explore the history of handmade art in cultures throughout the world, including Panama, Haiti, Germany, Medieval Europe, China, and Japan.

## **CALL TO ADVENTURE: HEROES & ART** - (7th and 8th grade; 1 Semester)

Learn about all kinds of different heroes from ancient times through present-day characters in pop culture like Luke Skywalker, Harry Potter, and Starlord! In addition to discussing the Hero's Journey and modern storytelling techniques, we will be creating some incredible artwork using all kinds of art media like paints, markers, pastels, and colored pencils. We will be keeping visual journals, and this class involves reading and writing. Explore the ways that you relate to these heroes in this art-adventure class!

## **CARTOONING and ANIMATION** - (7th and 8th grade; 1 Semester)

This class teaches drawing and cartooning basics, as well as how to create original characters and storylines. We explore different cartooning and animation styles throughout history, and will be using original characters to create comic strips, single-frame cartoons, and cartoon design for advertising. This class utilizes pencil, ink, and paint media and will emphasize both creativity and a finished product. We will also explore the history of cartoons, caricature, and animation.

## **DRAWING and PAINTING WORKSHOP** - (7th and 8th grade; 1 Semester)

Want to discover or improve your artistic skills? This is a fun, basic art class that covers the fundamentals of drawing and painting. You will explore a variety of art media including watercolor and tempera paints, pastels, ink, and graphite, and learn basic drawing skills including shading and perspective. This course is a great foundation class to start developing your own artistic style.

## **HOME ECONOMICS**

### **ADVANCED FOODS** - (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade; 1 Semester; Prerequisite: Home Ec. Fun)

Do you want to take your culinary skills to the next level? This home economics class builds on the cooking concepts learned in Home Ec Fun. The awesome recipes are a variety of savory and sweet options. We will learn how to enjoy and prepare healthy snacks and meals from each food group. This class will get a lot of hands on experience in the kitchen, which will benefit students now and in the future.

### **HOME EC. FUN** - (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade; 1 Semester)

Do you like to cook? Have you wondered what it's like to be a chef? Then this class is for you! This home economics class is for students who want to continue what they were exposed to in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade wheel. Life skills, such as etiquette, babysitting, and getting along with others will be incorporated into this class. The cooking for this class may include baking and quick meals. Students learn how to follow a recipe, measure correctly, and work as a team. Seasonal cooking is incorporated as appropriate.

### **MONEY MATTERS** - (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade; 1 Semester)

Let's talk money! This class will explore various ways to handle your money wisely. We will talk personal economics; learn about various types of investments and savings accounts as well as the world of teen entrepreneurship (starting your own business).

## **MATH**

### **MATH PROJECTS & GAMES** – (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade; 1 Semester)

In this class you will work on a number of hands-on projects that include building math games and puzzles, geometric kites, building and racing dragsters, building bird houses, and geometric design. You will also need to put your problem solving and critical thinking skills to work as you play math games, solve puzzles and put clues together to find the answers to tricky math problems. Reinforce your math skills while having fun!

## **MUSIC** - *All music courses may be repeated*

**BAND / SYMPHONIC WINDS** – (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade woodwind, brass and percussion players: flute, oboe, clarinet, bass clarinet, saxophones, bassoon; trumpet, horn, trombone, baritone, tuba; Full Year).

Symphonic Winds is our award-winning top level wind ensemble. The class includes development of proper winds technique, focus on the development of tone, rhythm, accuracy, articulation and style through the performance of band literature. Selected winds also have the opportunity to perform with the Symphony Orchestra. The band's very busy performing schedule includes the Fall Parade season, Disneyland, District Vertical Concert, Concert on the Green, and a Night at the Movies. First semester is our parade season performing as competition marching band. Second semester focuses on symphonic and popular literature in the Symphonic Band format. Auxilliary (drill/flag) members may choose this full year elective or just the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester.

### **CHORUS** - (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade; 1 semester)

Chorus is for students interested in singing. No experience is necessary. Class includes developing proper vocal technique, note reading and the performance of vocal repertoire in various styles. Concerts include the Fall Choir Concert, Holiday Concerts, Spring Concert, The Concert on the Green, and a Night at the Movies.

### **DRUM LINE** – (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade percussion players; Full Year).

Drum Line is the percussion compliment to the Symphonic Winds. The class includes development of proper percussion technique; focus on the development of various performance practices, rudiments, rhythm, accuracy, articulation and style through the performance of percussion literature. Selected percussionists have the opportunity to perform with the Symphony Orchestra. The Drum Line combines with the Symphonic Winds to form the symphonic band and marching band. The very busy performing schedule includes the Fall Parade season, Disneyland, District Vertical Concert, Spring Show, May Show, Concert on the Green, and a Night at the Movies. First semester is our parade season performing as a competition marching band. Second semester focuses on symphonic and popular literature. Drum line also performs separately. Auxilliary (drill/flag) members may choose this full year elective or just the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester.

### **ROCK BAND** – (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade; Full Year)

Open to students interested in learning rock vocals, rock guitar, rock bass, rock keyboards, or rock drum set. No experience is necessary. Class includes developing proper technique, note and tab reading and the performance of standard rock repertoire. Guitar and bass players should plan to provide their own instrument although some school instruments are available on a very limited basis.. Classes will focus on forming and rehearsing a band, issues of sound and balance, and performance of rock repertoire. Rock Band performs concerts of their own, A Night At The Movies, and at the end of the year school assembly. Some advanced players are combined into the Symphony Orchestra for performances at a theme park, Orchestra Vertical Concert, and the school assembly.

### **STRING ORCHESTRA** – (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade violin, viola, cello, and bass players; Full Year)

String Orchestra is our top level performing string ensemble. The class includes development of proper string technique, focus on the development of tone, rhythm, accuracy, articulation and style through the performance of string orchestra and full orchestra literature. String Orchestra performs as a string orchestra, and is joined by winds and percussion to perform as the Symphony Orchestra. The very busy performing schedule includes the Fall String Concert, Holiday Concerts, theme park concert, District Vertical Concert,, Concert on the Green, and a Night at the Movies.

### **ZERO PERIOD MUSIC** - (6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade; Full Year)

Zero Period Music is a full year elective open to all students though it targets sixth graders. It includes players of all levels, including beginners with a desire to learn an instrument. Classes include a rapid review of instrument performance fundamentals and note reading followed by ensemble playing in preparation for school concerts. No weekend or after school rehearsals are required. The Zero period Band and Orchestra perform at the Holiday Concerts, Spring Concert, and at the Night at the Movies Concert. Classes are held from 7:15 – 8:00 A.M. Mondays & Wednesdays are for all strings (violin, viola, cello, bass). Tuesdays & Thursdays are for Band (flute, oboe, clarinet, bass clarinet, saxophone, bassoon, trumpet, horn, trombone, baritone, tuba, drums and percussion). Fridays – may be all students or specific groups based on needs and schedule. School credit is given and this class schedule does not take away an elective choice or the elective wheel as it is before school.

## TECHNOLOGY

### **BROADCAST JOURNALISM** - (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade: 1 Semester)

Your parents don't want you watching too much TV, but what if it's your homework assignment!?! Here's your chance to create your own video projects: instructional videos, news stories, commercials, public service announcements, movie trailers, advanced green-screen special effects, editing techniques, man-on-the-street interviews, and documentaries. You'll do it all! Just bring your creativity and a desire to work and have fun. Learn how to use camcorders and computer-based video editing equipment. This is the class that produces First AveNEWS! This course may be repeated.

<<< *This class is responsible for creating the live morning announcements and will require you to be at school at 7:45 one day a week.*

### **COMPUTER APPLICATIONS** - (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade: 1 Semester)

In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, the computer is a vital tool, and you need to know how to be a "power user." This exciting course will give you a solid foundation in keyboarding skills, word processing, spreadsheets, databases, desktop publishing, art and communications, as well as computer market awareness, terminology and computer ethics. You'll also have the opportunity to learn how to build your own websites using HTML, the language of the Internet!

### **CREATIVE ENGINEERING** - (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade: 1 Semester)

If you would like to explore the creative side of engineering through project based / hands-on learning, here is your chance. Using the design process, you will dabble in robotics, structural / civil engineering and computer coding to discover how creative you can be.

### **INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY 1** - (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade: 1 Semester)

Working in small groups and independently, students will rotate through several units that emphasize the use of computer technology in a guided hands-on approach to learning. The units cover flight, drafting, wood projects, metals, geometric design using plastics and mousetrap vehicles. Each unit is designed to reinforce the core curricular areas of Math, Science, and History while having fun.

### **INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY 2** - (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade: 1 Semester; Prerequisite: Industrial Technology 1)

Working in small groups and independently, students will rotate through several units that emphasize the use of computer technology in a guided hands-on approach to learning. The units cover mechanical advantage and solar energy by building solar cars, drafting, and advanced woodworking making boxes and your choice of project. Each unit is designed to reinforce the core curricular areas of Math, Science, and History while having fun.

### **INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY 3** - (8<sup>th</sup> grade: 1 Semester; Prerequisite: Industrial Technology 1 and 2)

Working in small groups and independently, students will use computer and other technologies to research, design and build projects using a variety of materials. Areas of emphasis will include magnetic levitation, alternative and renewable energy sources, computer aided drafting (CAD) and advanced woodworking with emphasis on using the scroll saw, and other choice projects including rubber band powered airplanes or building a hydrogen-powered vehicle. Some students may choose to design and build their own guitar, which is available for an additional materials fee. Course may be repeated with instructor consent.

### **INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY- GUITAR MAKING** - (8<sup>th</sup> Grade: 1 Semester)

Using a kit of your choice you will build a solid body electric guitar or an acoustic guitar. During your time in this class you will learn the ins and outs of guitar making, finishing, electronics and set up. You will paint and/or polish your new instrument until it gleams adding special touches to make it uniquely your own.

**Important:** Kits cost \$125.00 and up (subject to change). Finishing supplies are provided, however, students need to provide color paint of choice should they choose to have a colored instead of natural finish. Must have parent permission and signature to be enrolled.

## THEATRE

### **THEATRE EXPERIENCE** - (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade: 1 Semester)

If you enjoyed 6<sup>th</sup> grade Drama, then you'll want to join the cast of *Theatre Experience*. There won't be a dull moment or a minute to waste in this action-packed class! You'll be up on stage doing scenes, working the lights, and setting the stage. Class projects will include scene work, character studies, improvisation, performance critiques, theatre games, vocabulary, etc. This class is a prerequisite for Theatre Workshop and Theatre Production.

### **THEATRE WORKSHOP** - (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade: 1 Semester; Prerequisite: Theatre Experience)

Are you looking for a chance to take what you learned in Theatre Experience to the next level? Do you want to be a part of an ensemble of actors? Then *Theatre Workshop* is the place for you! You will work on many different kinds of projects both original and script based, long term and short term, group and individual. Theatre Workshop student actors will perform in two grade level school assemblies.

**THEATRE PRODUCTION** - (8th grade; 1 Semester; Prerequisite: Theatre Experience)

Do you want to see your name in lights? Do you long to hear the roar of applause? Do you want to be a part of FA history? Then *Production 2017-18* might be the place for you. Approximately 60 student actors will have the opportunity to continue their exploration of the world of theatre in either the first or second semester. Student actors will work collaboratively on projects and gain experience in all aspects of play production from publicity to set design.

Production students will be cast in a full-length play which will be performed at the end of the semester.

**MISCELLANEOUS (but awesome)**

**AIDE: TEACHER, OFFICE, LIBRARY** - (8<sup>th</sup> grade only; Teacher/Staff Approval; 1 Semester)

Students taking one of these classes will work closely with a teacher, administrator or librarian and learn skills that will provide valuable services to the school. To ensure that our students get a broad exposure to our elective classes, students may not be an aide more than once.

**AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination)** – (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade; Full Year; Application required)

AVID is a rigorous academic elective which prepares students in the academic middle for admission to a four-year college or university. Students are taught study skills, note-taking, time management, writing and research skills, while being immersed in a college-going culture. Twice a week students participate in guided study group sessions that are led by college tutors, providing support for success in the academically rigorous curriculum. Additionally, the AVID elective class provides access to information about colleges and universities through college visits, guest speakers, college tutors, and college admission requirement information. ***AVID students are chosen through an application and interview process. Any students interested in taking the class must apply in the spring for the following year.***

**DANCE** - (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade; 1 Semester)

Do you want to learn all of the latest dance styles and impress your friends with your YouTube-worthy moves? Then this is the class for you! In this class you will learn some upbeat hip hop dances to perform for your friends & family as well as the history of various dance styles and famous dancers. You will also be involved in teaching and choreographing a dance of your own favorite style. Boys are welcome too; there's no better way to impress the girls than with some stylish moves you'll be learning in this class! This class can be repeated.

**FITNESS / CROSS TRAINING** - (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade; 1 Semester)

This class focuses on fitness and cardiovascular improvements. Students will learn about their bodies, its skeletal and muscular functions, as well as ways to increase physical fitness. A variety of physical activities will be incorporated, including plyometrics (high-impact movements), cardio circuits, and increased knowledge of the human body. Students will be expected to learn and perform all physical movements and techniques appropriately, and will learn how to avoid injury during athletic activity. This class will help students become more knowledgeable about their bodies and ways to continue a journey of wellness.

**MATH MENTOR** - (8<sup>th</sup> only)

If are interested in mentoring or coaching 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> graders in a math classroom, then this is your opportunity to be a leader and role model on campus. Math Mentors must be in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade in the 2017-18 school year and enrolled in Algebra or Geometry. **Teacher approval is required.**

**PEER COACHING** - (8<sup>th</sup> only)

If are interested in helping others with their academics and enjoy mentoring or coaching 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> graders, then this is your opportunity to be a leader and role model on campus. Peer Coaches must be in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade in the 2017-18 school year. **Teacher approval is required.**