

KAMS Guide to 8th Grade Electives for 2017-18

Year Long Electives

Agricultural Science - Learn about the world of agriculture through hands-on labs such as: ice cream and butter making, seed germination, plant propagation and food safety. Develop leadership and problem-solving skills in a team-building setting. Discover California agriculture, including animal science, plant science, natural resources, and forestry.

Art Portfolio- The development of a personal portfolio. Course is for serious Art students to explore artistic and creative expression. In addition, the portfolio will allow students to take a performance test at PGHS and advance directly to Art 2 or AP Studio Art as a freshman.

AVID 8 – Application required unless already in AVID 7. College preparatory elective designed for students historically underrepresented in college who demonstrate academic potential. Goals include preparation in meeting 4-year college eligibility requirements, academic instruction and support plus motivation for pursuing college dreams.

Beginning Band – Learn musical concepts and how to play a musical instrument.

Choir – Learn music fundamentals (rhythm, note reading, phrasing and vocal techniques) and perform music from different cultural backgrounds and styles including performances at seasonal concerts, festivals and events.

Concert Band – Designed for students with at least one full year of band experience.

French 1 High school level college preparatory course in speaking, reading, writing, and understanding written and spoken French. Includes study French-speaking countries and cultures. Meets one year of college entrance (A-G) world language requirements.

History Uncovered – Application required. Have you ever wanted to take a class where you choose what you learn? This is your opportunity! The theme for the course for 2017 – 2018 will be **Conflict and Compromise**. Students will be introduced to high-level research techniques and create a culminating project (either individually or as part of a group) to submit in the Sacramento County History Day Competition. Winning entries will then compete at the California State History Day Competition.

Japanese 1 - High school level college preparatory course in comprehension, expression, reading and writing in Japanese. Includes study of Japanese culture. Meets one year of college entrance (A-G) world language requirements.

Japanese 2 – Must have passed Japanese 1 with C or higher. Continuation of the study of the Japanese language and culture.

Jazz Band – Zero period class for serious music students who are also enrolled in Concert Band.

Leadership – Application required. Students plan and lead events including assemblies, rallies, lunchtime activities and school spirit activities. Also includes work with KAMS TV productions. Must maintain a 2.0 GPA with no D's or Fs or Us.

Spanish 1 - High school level college preparatory course in comprehension, expression, reading and writing in Spanish. Includes study of Spanish culture. Meets one year of college entrance (A-G) world language requirements.

Yearbook – Application required. Covers basic journalism skills and use of digital publishing in order to produce our award winning school yearbook. Yearbook also produces the KAMS TV weekly show and involves video production and news announcers.

Semester Electives – Half Year – 18 weeks

Art – Introductory studio class covering basic elements and principals of art and design through the creation of 2D and 3D artwork using a variety of mediums and techniques. Art history, technique, individuality, creativity, effort, observation, discussion, reading, vocabulary, and criticism will be emphasized. No previous art experience needed.

Computer Technology – Covers the following: introductory computer skills including keyboarding, working environment organization and optimization, word processing, spreadsheets, multimedia presentations and internet research skills.

Conversational Spanish – This introduction to Spanish is a great foundation for success in high school level Spanish 1. Covers basic vocabulary, grammar, geography, famous people, multicultural literature, and exploration of Hispanic/Latino culture. Develop skills in *reading, writing, speaking, and listening*.

Criminology - Fans of CSI will love this one – science-based labs related to criminal investigation practices. Labs include: fingerprints, chromatography, footprints, unknown substances, blood spatter and much more!

Dance - This class covers basic dance terminology, history, and various forms of dance such as hip hop, folk, and jazz. Students will develop teamwork and confidence-building through student choreography opportunities.

Digital Photography - Students will explore Digital Photography through the elements of composition. Class includes lectures, visual presentations, studio work, and exams. Includes learning digital camera function, digital manipulation of images in Adobe Photoshop, and other technical skills.

Drama - Explore acting through pantomime, improvisation, monologues, partner scenes, stage combat, and group plays from famous playwrights. Your original scripts welcome too! Learn basic theatrical concepts, terminology, and have stage time without intimidation. No previous acting experience required.

Drumming - Can you feel the beat? In this lab class, held at the high school, learn the basics of music through performance on a percussion instrument. Students will learn notes, rhythms, rudiments, individual and group performance skills, music theory, and history. Students will practice, perform, explore, and analyze various types of music.

Film Studies – Explore the relationship between film and literature. Elements from selected novels, short stories and plays will be analyzed and compared to film versions of the same work.

Guitar – This lab class, held at the high school, is for students with or without guitar experience. The curriculum includes the development of fundamental skills, note reading, aural skills, rhythmic patterns, chord study, and finger picking styles, musical forms and improvisation. Students encouraged to supply their own acoustic instrument.

Honors Support - Designed for students enrolled in at least one honors class and in need of additional time to work on assignments with the support of other peers in similar classes. Learn to prioritize and manage an honors workload. Pre-AP strategies are used to help students engage in higher critical thinking and be more successful in each of their classes.

Leadership – *Application required.* Students plan and lead events including assemblies, rallies, lunchtime activities and school spirit activities. Also includes work with KAMS TV productions. Must maintain a 2.0 GPA with no D's or Fs or Us.

Musical Theatre - Fundamentals of musical theater with emphasis on ensemble singing. Develop performing skills, and understand/appreciate many elements of theatrical production. Covers basic musical and theatrical concepts and terminology. Enjoy stage time with less stress. A Broadway Jr. musical will be produced and performed for live audience.

Robotics - Hands-on computer programming, engineering, and problem solving with Lego's EV3 Robots. Gain an appreciation of science, technology, engineering and math through healthy, immersive, collaborative competition.

Sewing 101 – Course begins with basics of hand sewing followed by projects that will help you refine and expand your sewing techniques. Then course will continue on to more advanced projects using patterning and machine sewing.

Speed, Power and Fitness - Course emphasizes the development of speed, power, agility, and core strength through fun team sport activities and conditioning.

Stagecraft - This class explores theater with an emphasis on staging, scenery, costuming, props, makeup and technical aspects of lighting and sound. No previous theatre experience required.

Video Production - Introduction to digital video editing software and the production of complete videos. Develop your video from a concept, through the camera shots needed, to the final editing. Specifics of camera angles, lighting and post-production editing skills will be explored.

CTE Quarter Electives – 9 weeks

Bionic Bodies – Using Science to fight diseases and improve our lives! Introduction to biomedical engineering concepts.

Camera-Free Photography – Using amazing modern technology to create vintage photo looks and learn other cool alternatives to standard photography.

Costuming – Design and create looks for the cast of upcoming live shows produced by KAMS and/or PG Theatre Companies.

Fashion 411 – In your own version of Project Runway, work individually and in teams while learning to design and then create clothing.

Food Science – Making food better and feeding the world through advances in Science.

Forensics – Fans of CSI will love this one – science-based labs related to criminal investigation practices. Labs may include: fingerprints, chromatography, footprints, unknown substances, blood spatter and more!

Germ World – What makes you tick and what makes you sick! An introduction to microbiology concepts.

Introduction to Theatre – Pantomime, improv, and pair scenes, oh my! Theatre games and fun will help you learn about the exciting world of acting.

Set Design – Learn how to create amazing scenery, props and special F/X that will help performers dazzle audiences.

Stage Combat – From fight scenes to swashbuckling pirates there's a lot of exciting action on stage. Learn the basics of safe stage combat and sword fighting.

Stage Makeup – From basic foundations to special F/X makeups – learn to make an actor shine on the stage or look like the victim of a zombie attack!