

Antioch Upper Grade School



Inspiring a Passion for Personal Excellence

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Dear Parents/Guardians of 8th Grade Students,

We are excited to welcome your child to 8th grade at AUGS! The purpose of this letter is to communicate about the encore options available to your child for this coming school year. Additional details about other elements of the schedule at AUGS will be communicated as we move forward in our planning. The scheduling process requires a great deal of coordination between teachers, students and parents. For this reason, we start the process early and try to communicate all the necessary information clearly.

Course **requests** for incoming 8th graders occur in multiple steps. In May, students request their choices of encore in the computer labs at their buildings. This encore process is separate from placements for core content and intervention classes. Student schedules will be created in June and July after placement for core and intervention classes has been completed. Parents will then receive a complete student schedule electronically (if there is an email address on file) or by mail in August.

Students and parents have the opportunity to **request** the student's top four interests. **We will try to honor as many requests as possible. If you select a full year music Encore (Band, Choir, Orchestra) this will be a top choice.** Included in this packet is information about the options available to 6th graders as well as a worksheet to prepare you and your student for the upcoming course request process. Within the next few days, students will be making their Encore class **requests** on a computer based survey, so please return the Encore Request Worksheet with your child to help expedite the process.

Here is a "generic" sample (organization of classes will vary by grade level):

Trimester 1	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5	Period 6	Period 7	Period 8
	Core 1	Encore	Core 2	Core 3	Core 4	Lunch/Success	Encore	Core 5
Trimester 2	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5	Period 6	Period 7	Period 8
	Core 1	Encore	Core 2	Core 3	Core 4	Lunch/Success	Encore	Core 5
Trimester 3	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5	Period 6	Period 7	Period 8
	Core 1	Encore	Core 2	Core 3	Core 4	Lunch/Success	Encore	Core 5

****Trimester Encore Classes change each trimester.**

Sincerely,
The AUGS Administrative Team

8th Grade Encore for the 2019-2020 School Year

Full Year Music

BAND: Full Year

8th Grade Band: 8th grade Band is an Encore course for students who have participated in band during their 6th grade and 7th grade years. *The goal of 8th grade Band is to prepare students to participate fully in the D117 Band programs.* 8th grade band students will perform 5-6 concerts per year with an emphasis on advanced tone production, range, note and rhythm production, sight-reading ability, rudiments, and scales. Students are highly encouraged to audition for the IMEA Jr. High Honor Band in September and participate in Solo & Ensemble Contest in February. Band grades will be determined by weekly lesson attendance, practice chart completion, and attendance at required performances outside of the regular school day.

ORCHESTRA: Full Year

8th Grade Orchestra: Orchestra is an Encore course for students who have participated in orchestra during their 6th & 7th grade years. Previous experience is required and previous elementary school experience is a highly recommended. 8th Grade orchestra students will perform 4 concerts per year, and are encouraged to participate in Solo & Ensemble Contest in February. A more detailed study of rhythms, scales, string techniques, and musical concepts will be applied in this course. Orchestra grades will be determined by weekly lesson attendance, practice chart completion, projects and attendance at required performances outside of the regular school day.

CHOIR: Full Year

8th Grade Choir: Choir will sing three to four part music in many genres such as classical, folk, holiday, jazz, rock, musical theatre, and pop. The emphasis will be on developing a good singing tone, building musicianship, reading music, sight-reading and voice part independence. Choir students have the option of participating as soloists or in small groups in Broadway Showcase, the Solo and Ensemble Festival and the Art Crawl. This choir is open to any 8th grade student who wishes to be a part of a vocal performing group. The choir performs at least four concerts per year in the evening. Attendance at the concerts is required. Choir grades will be determined by lesson attendance, music theory worksheets, projects and attendance at required performances in the evenings.

Foreign Language

**** Students that took a full year Foreign Language (Spanish or German) as a 7th grader, will be enrolled in the same Foreign Language as an 8th grader as one of their top 2 request.**

German 8th Grades and Spanish 8th Grade

German/Spanish is a **two-year** encore class that serves as an introduction to beginning level German/Spanish. Upon completion of two years and teacher recommendation students will place into German/Spanish II in high school. The middle school curriculum reflects collaboration between the middle and high school teachers and is equivalent to German/Spanish I at the high school.

Students will learn how to effectively communicate in German/Spanish. At the end of two years students will be able to listen, read, speak and write according to the ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching Foreign Language) novice standards.

German and Spanish Topic

Shopping

City Life

Daily Routine

Animals

Read a book from Target Culture

German Book: Das kleine ich bin ich

Spanish Book: Pobre Ana

8th Grade Trimester Encore Classes (12 weeks)

Trimester encore classes **with no full year music class or foreign language** - Students are scheduled in 6 different trimester encore classes

Trimester encore classes **with a full year music class or foreign language class** - Students are scheduled for the music/foreign language encore class and 3 different trimester encore classes

Computer Applications

Students enrolled in the Computer Applications classes are exposed to all of the International Society for Technology Education Standards. Each grade level has a different focus. Students will think creatively and problem solve while they practice technology skills. Students will also spend the first part of the period everyday typing as they increase their accuracy and speed. Each course has been created to be engaging and fun, while they learn valuable 21st century skills.

8th Grade – Learning simple coding through digital game design, and we'll have “Digital Media Mondays” to focus on your digital footprint.

General Music

American Music History

The class will follow the course of American music going through each era's popular songs, instruments and culture. We start with the early 20th century through modern day with Blues, Jazz, Ragtime, Musicals, Rock 'n Roll, British Invasion, Disco, Funk, Pop, Rap and Hip Hop. No previous music experience is necessary to be successful in this class.

Music Tech

The class will explore the process of creating music. Students will learn basic music composition, arranging, and performing skills using the app GarageBand on the iPad. By the end of the trimester, students will be able to read, perform, and record basic rhythms (whole note, half note, quarter note, eighth note) using a variety of digital instruments found in GarageBand (piano, guitar, bass drums, etc). No previous music experience is necessary to be successful in the class.

Global Journalism

The eighth grade students will continue to advance their writing and language skills by writing a variety of news stories such as: lifestyle, editorials, reviews, world news, sports, and dip into advertising. Lastly, partnering with high school students to value the importance of peer editing. In all grade levels, students are meeting the language, reading, and writing Common Core State Standards in a 21st century learning environment.

3-D Modeling (Gradphic Arts)

3-D Modeling and Virtual Reality 3-D Creations

Using the program TinkerCad, students will create and print a 3-Dimensional work of their own creation. Furthermore, some students will have the opportunity to create 3-D models for 3-D printing using the HTC Vive virtual reality system. The objective of this class is to allow students to become more aware of their 3-Dimensional space in their environment and incorporate that into digital media.

Creative Writing /Interactive Language Arts

Students will explore and produce poetry, drama, and historical fiction writings. Students will apply aspects of theatre, presentation, and interview skills using original and existing creative writing pieces.

The course will include attention to dramatics, multicultural communication, audience analysis, speaking opportunities, research, organization, and critical thinking. Students will gain an appreciation of speaking through an understanding of the components, terms, personnel, history, styles, and techniques

of theatre and public speaking. Students will study and practice developing character traits and will be introduced to improvisation and dramatic stage performances.

In all grade levels, students are meeting the speaking, listening, reading, and writing Common Core State Standards, IL standards for Fine Arts, ELA communication standards in a 21st century learning environment, as well as Social Emotional learning standards.

8th Grade: Analyze & create short stories and poetry further developing their use of figurative language. Develop dramatic presentation skills through mini pantomime, improvisation, and skit performances. Convert a favorite book or scene of their choice to a play to be presented before and with an audience of their peers as a final project.

Art (Visual Fine Art)

In addition to their intrinsic value, the arts contribute to children's development and enrich the quality of life. The Visual Art Curriculum aligns with Illinois State Standards for the Fine Arts.

Students participating in 8th Grade Visual Fine Art will incorporate all previous skills and demonstrate their understanding of the basic elements of art and principles of design. Through a variety of 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional art, students will create advanced work that combines imagination, personal style, and knowledge of art concepts. Project units will include drawing, painting, and 3-D media. The Visual Fine Art curriculum incorporates related art history, culture and careers.

Project Lead the Way (PLTW) - (3 class choices)

8th grade PLTW is a “hands-on” engineering-based program that incorporates Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) all into the same course. Students experience rigorous and relevant experiences through activity, project, and problem-based learning. They use leading technology to solve problems while gaining skills in communication, collaboration, higher level critical-thinking, and creativity.

8th Grade Flight and Space

The focus of this unit is the physics of flight. Students will investigate several different types of aircraft, learn the physics behind heavier-than-air flight, and explore the challenges of space travel. They will design, build, test, and modify their own glider using design software to optimize flight characteristics. The class covers engineering concepts, history/ science of flight and space in science, aeronautics, physics and traveling and living in space. There is research and writing embedded in this curriculum.

This course builds knowledge and skills related to the following career clusters:

1. Construction
2. Physics/ Math
3. Manufacturing
4. Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM)
5. Transportation, Distribution, & Logistics

8th Grade Robotics (Automation and Robotics)

Students trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, coding, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Students use the VEX Robotics® platform to design, build, and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, toll booths, and robotic arms. This is a course in the series of Project Lead the Way (PLTW) curriculum. For more information, visit the PLTW website at <http://www.pltw.org/>. The class covers engineering concepts, coding, robotics and their use in the world, programming and hands on work.

This course build knowledge and skills related to the following career clusters:

1. Architecture & Construction
2. Information Technology (IT) Computer Programming
3. Manufacturing
4. Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM)
5. Transportation, Distribution, & Logistics

8th Grade Green Architecture - PLTW

Green Architecture is a Project Lead the Way STEM unit of study focused on the practice of architecture and sustainable development. Students explore residential building systems, residential construction and construction cost, site planning and architectural documentation. They have the opportunity to design a small home using recycled shipping containers and use fundamental features of a 3-D architectural software to document their design.

2019-2020 8th grade Encore Request Worksheet

Return this worksheet to your homeroom teacher. A representative from AUGS will visit your class to guide you in the electronic request procedure.

Student First and Last Name (Print):

Select your current team:	Knights	Spartans	Titans
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	Encore Class Name
Encore Request	
Encore Request	
Encore Request	
Encore Request	

**Students taking Band and Orchestra must communicate with their music teachers for approval.

**All Encore class schedules are based on the number of request and class availability.

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date