

**Patriot Oaks Academy**  
**Rising 8<sup>th</sup> grade Electives and Course Information**

**Core Courses:**

Students are automatically placed in appropriate core courses (Standard, Advanced and Gifted) based on a review of previous grades, standardized testing and in some cases, teacher and guidance recommendations, in accordance with the district's pupil progression plan. Gifted and ESE services are also provided to students who are appropriately staffed in those programs. *Please see the verification form sent home for your child and return the signed form to your child's homeroom teacher. If you have questions about the core courses your child will be enrolled in, please contact our guidance department.*

**Elective Courses: Your child will have (3) non-core courses. All course are year-long courses except the Career Exploration and Decision Making Course. *Elective options may change based on availability and student interest. Please see course descriptions below:***

    X     **Physical Education** *(All 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are enrolled in Phys. Ed. unless they have a specific cause to be waived from the course. Waivers are available on the District website.)*

*Please rank electives in order of preference (1- most preferred to 8- least preferred):*

- Band**
- Jazz Band** *(Students who are interested in Jazz must have a recommendation from Mr. Rauh)*
- Chorus**
- ICT 3** (Information and Communications Technology 3)
- Beginning Spanish** *(This option is only available for students who were NOT previously enrolled in Beginning Spanish in 7<sup>th</sup> grade.)*
- Intermediate Spanish** *(This option is available for students who were previously enrolled in Beginning Spanish in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. If a student has taken Begin. Spanish AND Intermediate Spanish he/she may be eligible for HS credit. See notes below)*
- 2D Studio Art**
- Career Explorations and Decision Making** *(with school based internship-semester course; P.E. takes the alternate semester)-(Enrollment in this course is limited and placement is reviewed by Guidance)*
- TV Production** *(This course may or may not be available in 2017-2018)*

It may not be possible to place students in their chosen electives due to constraints in the master schedule, adjusting for class size and enrollment in specialized courses (i.e., Intensive Math, Learning Strategies, and/or specialized instruction). Please choose your electives carefully, as we will most likely NOT be able to accommodate changes once the master schedule has been created. Once the school master schedule is finalized, changes in electives are addressed by need and availability. Every effort will be made to honor requests. *Please keep an open mind when choosing electives because adjustments may cause your child to be enrolled in a course other than the one he/she chose.*

**Students receiving a level 1 or 2 on the FSA Reading and/or Math could be placed in an Intensive Reading, Intensive Math and/or a Learning Strategies course in lieu of a non-core course(s). These courses are year-long and may include multiple grade levels 6-8.**

**Title: Physical Education** - Identify, analyze, and evaluate movement concepts, mechanical principles, safety considerations, and strategies/tactics regarding movement performance in a variety of physical activities. Includes: fitness, gymnastics, Team Sports and Individual/Dual Sports.  
**Title: Band (Year)** - Students refine instrumental technique, foundational music literacy, and aesthetic musical awareness through rehearsal, performance, and study of high-quality band literature. Instrumentalists work on the fundamentals of music notation, sound production, instrument care and maintenance, and personal and group rehearsal strategies. Public performances may serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. Students may be required to attend and/or participate in rehearsals and performances outside the school day to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom. This course may also require students to obtain a musical instrument. Cost of instrument rental and "fair play" fees, as well as fees associated with field trips, should be considered when choosing this elective.

**PLEASE TURN OVER**

**Title: Jazz Band (Year)** - Mr. Rauh will determine final placement in Jazz Band. Students with previous orchestral experience demonstrate intermediate-level knowledge of instrumental techniques, music literacy, ensemble performance skills, and related musical knowledge through study, rehearsal, and performance of a variety of high quality orchestral literature. Students continue technique through an advanced study of music and Jazz performances.

**Title: M/J Chorus (Year)** - Students with little or no choral experience develop beginning vocal technique and skills, critical and creative thinking skills, and an appreciation of music from around the world and through time. Public performances may serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. Students may be required to attend and/or participate in rehearsals and performances outside the school day to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom. Students who have had Chorus 1 will be enrolled in Chorus 2.

**Title: ICT 3 - Information and Communications Technology 3 (Year)** - The purpose of this course is to provide students with the computer, digital, and information technology skills necessary for success in their future academic and occupational goals. In addition to fundamental computer information, the content includes but is not limited to digital technologies associated with web development, multimedia, word processing, spreadsheet, database, Internet communications, cybersecurity, and computer programming.

Instruction and learning activities are provided in a laboratory setting using hands-on experiences with the equipment, materials and technology appropriate to the course content and in accordance with current practices. *If a student takes and successfully completes ICT1, ICT2 and ICT3 in middle school, the student is not required to enroll in Digital Information Technology (DIT) in high school; they will be placed into the second course in the IT progression.*

**Title: Beginning Spanish (Year)** - M/J Beginning Spanish introduces students to the target language and its culture. Students will learn beginning skills of listening and speaking and be introduced to basic skills in reading and writing in Spanish. Also, culture and comparisons are included in this one-year course.

**Title: Intermediate Spanish (Year)** M/J Spanish Intermediate is a continuation of M/J Beginning Spanish. Students will expand their knowledge of the language and its culture. Students will be able to engage in basic listening and speaking activities. Basic skills in reading and writing, and culture, connections, comparisons, and communities are included in this one-year course. *Students who complete M/J Beginning Spanish & M/J Intermediate Spanish and pass both final exams can be awarded a non-weighted high school credit.*

**Title: Exploring Two Dimensional Art (2D Art) (Year)** - Students extend to an advanced level techniques used to create a variety of 2-D artworks through developing skills in drawing, painting, printmaking, and collage. Students proficiently manipulate the structural elements of art with increasing independence to promote creative risk-taking in 2-D artwork. Investigation of artworks from Western and non-Western cultures provide a means for students to expand their understanding and appreciation of the role of art in global culture. Student artists use an art criticism process to evaluate, explain, and measure artistic growth in personal or group works. This course incorporates hands-on activities and consumption of art materials. A \$25.00 art donation is requested for this course.

**Title: Career Research and Decision Making (Semester)** - The purpose of this course is to enable students to explore careers/career clusters and make informed career choices. Activities enable students to increase self-awareness and develop the skills needed to successfully plan for postsecondary education and the workplace. Career assessments include interests, aptitudes, and basic skills. Work-based learning strategies appropriate for this course include job shadowing, field trips, and mentors. Work-based activities allow students to evaluate their career choices as they relate to actual careers at the worksite. Curriculum for the course is delivered through Edmodo.

**\*\* Consistent with all course requests, if you would like your child to take an online course at Patriot Oaks Academy during the school day, the course MUST be requested now on the Course Verification Form or by contacting our guidance counselor, Ms. Watson, prior to the registration deadline. We will NOT drop or change a standard, intensive, advanced or elective course after the registration period ends (July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017) without going through an administrative review. *An online course taken during the school day does not have on-campus teacher support, only adult supervision.* The virtual teacher is not on campus. **Please contact our middle school counselor, Ms. Watson, if you would like to pursue online courses (547-4060).****

I would like my child to take \_\_\_\_\_ virtually, in lieu of \_\_\_\_\_.

### **BLENDED (with GIFTED)**

Some students may be placed, or “blended,” into gifted courses (even though they are not identified as gifted) based on standardized test scores, grades and/or teacher recommendations. The decision to be “blended” is made by administration and guidance. *This option varies from year to year based upon performance and availability.*

**\*\* Please sign and return the Elective / Course Information Form to your child’s 7<sup>th</sup> grade HR teacher on or before March 10, 2017 \*\* Thank you!**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Student Name** (Please **Print**, LName, FName)

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

Please use the back of this page to share any additional notes to assist us in creating an appropriate program for your child.