

8th Grade Elective Course Descriptions	
0.5 credit	Art: Fiber Arts – Explore historic and contemporary artforms made from wool, yarn, fabric, and thread with traditional techniques like needle felting, embroidery, sewing, weaving, and more. This hands-on studio class focuses on developing personal creativity and craftsmanship.
0.5 credit	Art: 2D Drawing, Painting & Design – From pencil drawing and shading to painting, printmaking, and collage, students will develop technical skills, creative problem-solving, and personal artistic style while creating hands-on projects connecting to both art history and contemporary art.
0.5 credit	Art: 3D Sculpture Extravaganza – There’s more than just clay to explore as we create with papier-mâché, plaster, cardboard, wire, and more! Students will develop their building techniques, creative design, and craftsmanship while learning about historic and modern forms of sculpture.
1 credit	Band 8 – This class focuses on instrumental music in a concert band setting, featuring numerous performance opportunities throughout the year. Our goal is developing strong fundamental skills and growing those skills through performing a wide variety of music. No prior instrumental music experience is necessary.
1 credit	Choir 7/8 — This class is an introduction to Choir for both 7 th and 8 th grade students. Students will work on fundamentals of singing and prepare several musical performances. Students in this class will work on fundamentals of singing and prepare several musical performances for the school, families, and the community. Topics studied will include becoming a better singer, reading and interpreting music, musical styles, developing the voice and performing before an audience.
0.5 credit	Creative Writing — Writing is an art and a form of self-expression. In this class, students will have the opportunity to develop their craft through various writing genres. Students will set their own goals, choose their own focus and create their own portfolio. Short stories, personal reflections, and poetry are among the different types of writing that will be explored in this elective. Grading will be based on students’ self-motivation, work ethic, creativity and growth in writing skills.
0.5 credit	Engineering and Design —Introduces students to different types of technology used around the world. Students learn important ideas from a variety of industries and use them in fun, hands-on projects. Activities include sketching, manual drafting, CAD, architecture, engineering, photo editing, and design challenges that help students build creativity, problem-solving skills, and real-world connections. (1 semester only)
0.5 credit	Environmental Science/Outdoor Education — Students will be learning about Michigan’s environment, ecology, and outdoor educational activities. There will be a focus on conservation and the impact humans have had, and continue to have, on our state’s land, water, and the organisms that live on/in them.
1 credit	French I-Honors — This year-long course is the high school French I-H class intended for brand-new French learners. Students will read, write, listen to and speak French in the present tense. Success in this class allows a student to enroll in French 2 or 2H as a freshman. <i>This course is held during 1st hour at Hartland High School. (Please note- Students walk back to the Middle School after class as transportation is not available.)</i>
0.5 credit	Guitar — This class starts from the very beginning of guitar playing. We learn how to read music on acoustic guitar. Skills learned include how to pick, strum, and play finger style. We will eventually learn folk, rock, and blues music. We will learn older rock songs that go with the chords we are currently learning, and we will add songs with more chords as we go.

<p>1 credit</p>	<p>Math Activator- This focus of Math Activator is to provide assistance to students in order to help them be successful in their main math class. Students are placed in the class based on teacher recommendations, M-STEP data, and/or performance on district common assessments. The specific objective is to pre-teach concepts so students are exposed to and familiar with the content ahead of it being covered in their other/main math class. Students will receive extra instruction, examples, practice and have a small amount of time for corrections, retakes, absent work and homework.</p>
<p>0.5 credit</p>	<p>Peer to Peer — This one semester course will allow general education students to work with a variety of students with special needs in elective and/or core classes. Students will learn general strategies to work cooperatively and integrate effectively with students with special needs.</p>
<p>0.5 credit</p>	<p>Personal Development — This one-semester course is designed to increase students' knowledge of daily living skills, as well as practice these skills in classroom simulations and real-world situations. The course units focus on personal finance, career exploration, physical and mental health enhancement, goal setting and decision making and other daily living skills. Students may only take this class one time while attending HMS.</p>
<p>0.5 credit</p>	<p>Physical Education — This course is designed toward promoting physical fitness. Activities include basketball, football, tennis, badminton, bowling, volleyball, pickle ball and fitness testing.</p>
<p>0.5 credit</p>	<p>Public Speaking — Students will learn how communication affects everyday life. Students will develop knowledge in the process of communication, its barriers, and active listening. The fundamentals of speech organization and presentation will be applied through three formal presentations.</p>
<p>1 credit</p>	<p>Spanish I-Honors —The student is introduced to vocabulary and pronunciation and builds a foundation in speaking and understanding the language at an accelerated rate. Students will use authentic materials to foster skills in reading and listening. Students will create original dialogue, practice communicating, and learn to discuss their own interests. The student becomes acquainted with Hispanic culture and gains insight into cultural similarities and differences. Grammar concepts are taught in depth at this level. Reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills are developed. Students enrolled in this course have a strong interest in learning a second language and are considering taking more than 2 years of language. The Spanish I Honors class is the first step in the vertical progressive curriculum towards Advanced Placement.</p>
<p>0.5 credit</p>	<p>Theater – This course provides an outlet for student creativity! It is for seasoned actors or those interested in learning about acting and theater. Students interested in performance, direction, design, technical support, backstage crafts and publicity are encouraged to join. Whether you like to be in the limelight, or you like to be creative behind the scenes, you will have an opportunity to show your talent in the theater class. The class will enhance students' speech and communication skills, as well as teaching listening skills. Students will be able to explore the basic components of theater. The focus of this class will be to complete a final play. This will be featured at the end of the semester as a finished performance.</p>
<p>1 credit</p>	<p>Tutorial-This is a class designed to help students stay organized with class work and provides extra time to successfully complete their coursework. Students may receive help in one or several subjects. There is a focus on developing good study habits, as well as working on time management and organizational skills so students can be more productive with their time in relation to their school work. Teachers may recommend students for this class.</p>
<p>0.5 credit</p>	<p>Woodworking — is an introductory course that teaches students how to read blueprints, measure accurately, design templates, calculate materials, and learn the basics of woodworking. Students safely use hand tools, power tools, and a variety of finishing techniques while building several exciting hands-on projects. (1 semester only)</p>