



## 8<sup>th</sup> grade Elective Courses at Gamble Rogers Middle School 2023-2024

Gamble Rogers Middle School offers **semester** and **yearlong** Elective courses. Students do not need to apply for semester courses. However, students interested in taking a **yearlong elective course** must apply online. You can access the application form for elective selection by using the link below, or you can scan the QR code. <https://forms.office.com/r/uYhFsLpRSL>



The application closes **February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023**.

\*Please make sure that you take a lot of time choosing electives and truly commit to your choices! **After the conclusion of the 22-23 school year, elective course request changes will need to be approved by administration.**

The **semester courses** are automatically added to student schedules and placement is based on availability.

- Agricultural Science
- Art
- STEM (This is also offered as a semester course too.)
- Exploratory Spanish Intermediate (Must have taken Exploratory Spanish Beginning.)
- PE (Can be a semester or a full year.)

The following courses are **yearlong** elective course offerings in 8<sup>th</sup> grade:

- AVID
- Band
- Chorus
- Musical Theatre
- STEM
- Theatre 1, 2, 3
- Photography
- 2 D Digital Art (Yearbook)
- Advanced Studio Art
- PE (Yearlong)
- Computer Science Discoveries
- Intermediate Spanish (Must have teacher recommendation)
- Beginning Spanish (Must have teacher recommendation)

### Things to keep in mind:

- Every student will have a minimum of a semester of P.E. in his or her schedule unless a parent signs a waiver for the student to be excluded from P.E.
- Applying for these courses does NOT guarantee placement. Core classes scheduling and elective teacher recommendation are considered.

### Course Review Process:

- Students and parents can request a schedule review for a CORE course placement using the form at the link below.
- Course reviews will take place after final grades and state testing scores are released in June. Decisions to change placement will follow the course progressions and will be communicated over the summer.
- Students and parents will be notified by July 1st if the course review was approved or denied.  
<https://tinyurl.com/GRMSreview2425>

### Important Dates

<b>Elective Application Link Closes</b>	<b>February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024</b>	<b>February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024</b>
<b>AVID Applications Due</b>	<b>February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024</b>	<b>February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024</b>
<b>Course Request Verification Sheet Distributed</b>	<b>No later than May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024</b>	<b>No later than May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024</b>
<b>Course Review Link Closes</b>	<b>May 25, 2024</b>	<b>May 25, 2024</b>
<b>Schedules go live in HAC</b>	<b>District Date is TBD</b>	<b>District Date is TBD</b>

### For questions, please contact us!

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# 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Elective Descriptions

## What is a yearlong elective?

- Advanced elective classes for 8<sup>th</sup> graders who already have a passion or interest in a specific area.
- Students will be scheduled in the same class all year.

<b>AVID</b>	This class focuses on organization, note taking, and higher-level questioning using twice-weekly tutorials, direct instruction, and hands-on learning experiences. This class teaches you how to work collaboratively through engaging lessons that lay the foundation for success in high school, college, and beyond. <b>*Application Needed</b>
<b>Band</b>	Learning an instrument is one of the greatest skills you could learn. Students do not need any prior experience playing an instrument or reading music to join! You could play: Flute, oboe, clarinet, alto saxophone, French horn, trumpet, trombone, euphonium, tuba, or percussion. This class performs for the Fall Arts Festival, Winter Concert, and other performances throughout the year. Some after school practices may be necessary.
<b>Chorus</b>	Choir is a place where you can express yourself and become a confident singer. Students do not need any prior experience singing or learning how to read music. We perform for the Fall Arts Festival, St. Augustine Nights of Lights and other performances.
<b>Theatre 1-3 / Musical Theatre</b>	Step into the spotlight through Theatre! Prior experience is not needed as you will learn a variety of lifelong skills such as acting techniques, scenic design, costuming, lighting design, playwriting and so much more! This class performs, competes and volunteers all over Northeast and Central Florida. <b>*Musical theatre is placed by audition only.</b>
<b>STEM</b>	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics is a course designed to help students understand and implement the Engineering Design Process approach to Solving Problems. Students will learn about how technology was created to help us manipulate and understand the world around us. Students will have the chance to participate in hands-on activities where they build projects that demonstrate their knowledge.
<b>Photography</b>	Students explore the aesthetic foundations of art using beginning photography techniques. Processes and techniques for image capture and printing may include, photographs, mixed media, photo collage, cross-processing, emerging technologies and new media.
<b>Advanced Studio Art</b>	This is an advanced hands-on course that reviews the elements and principles of design and incorporates them with problem solving and art history. Students will develop observation and technical skills in drawing, painting, sculpture, printing, and various other art mediums. This yearlong course is filled with projects and activities that boast artistic skills, improve collaborative participation, and grow creativity. This course has workshop days and art field trips.
<b>Yearbook</b>	Students will learn how to design software, create a layout and create the yearbook. Students will participate in school workshops and field trips. Learn how to take photographs for the yearbook and work as a team to build the Gamble Rogers Yearbook. Please see the pictures attached.
<b>Computer Science Discoveries</b>	Computer Science Discoveries is a hands-on learning experience where students will learn the Essentials of: Web Design, Programming and Logic, and Gaming. Students will design and create their own Web Pages to display their skill and knowledge. Students will begin to understand the foundational concepts of Programming such as Structures, Functions, Variables, and Pseudocode. Students will finish by developing their own games either from Scratch or from Design Assets imported from the Web.
<b>Beginning Spanish</b>	This class is a continuation of Exploratory Spanish for students interested in taking their introductory Spanish to the next level. Students develop their writing, reading, and speaking skills and explore Hispanic culture. <b>*No pre-requisite</b>
<b>Intermediate Spanish</b>	This class is a continuation of Beginning Spanish and is for students who want to be challenged and complete the Spanish 1 High School credit. Students really strengthen their use of Spanish and explore the cultures of Spain and Hispanic Florida. <b>*Beginning Spanish is a pre-requisite to take this course.</b>
<b>WEB</b>	Built on the belief that students can help students succeed, the program trains mentors from our 8th grade class to be WEB Leaders. As positive 8th grade role models, WEB Leaders are mentors and student leaders who guide the 6th grade students to discover what it takes to be successful during the transition to middle school and help facilitate 6th grade success." <b>*Application acceptance needed.</b>

## What is a Semester Elective?

- Electives only lasting a semester that give students an introductory sample of various classes.
- Students do not select semester electives. They are assigned to students as part of a "wheel" to give students more exposure to different disciplines.

<b>STEM</b>	Science, Technology, Engineering and Math: The purpose of this semester course is to give students an introduction to the areas of technology and to introduce students to the design and problem-solving processes using manipulative skills while working cooperatively with others in team activities.
<b>Agriscience</b>	Students will learn the basics of agriculture with focuses on plants, animals, and natural resources. This course is hands on with learning often taking place in one of our many gardens or on a hike on the campus grounds. Students will also learn about our food systems and the safety procedures in agriculture.
<b>Visual Art 2</b>	Students explore media and techniques used to create a variety of 2-D artworks through developing skills in drawing, painting, printmaking, and collage. Students practice, sketch, and manipulate the structural elements of art. They will also investigate artworks from Western and non-Western cultures providing a means for students to expand their understanding and appreciation of the role of art in global culture.
<b>Exploratory Spanish</b>	This class is an introduction to the Spanish language and culture. Students develop basic vocabulary, writing, reading, and speaking skills. Students also dive into Hispanic culture and geography.