

**ART 7/8****1 semester**

If you want to improve your sketching and painting techniques, enjoy working in clay, and would love to learn more about sculpting and printing, then this class is for you! This course is designed to encourage students to build self-confidence and discover their own personal artistic abilities while closely studying the great artists of the world. There are two separate components of art within our program. Students may take one semester of Art in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and one semester of Art in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. There are fees associated with the projects that the students take home.

**ASSISTANT: LIBRARY, CLASSROOM AND OFFICE 7/8****1 semester**

Students are assigned to “work experience” positions with the office, library, gym or a classroom teacher. Each position requires students to be responsible for a variety of tasks on a daily basis. Excellent attendance and grades are required.

**AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination)****1 year**

AVID is a course offered here at Balboa for 7th and 8th graders designed to prepare you for high school, college, and beyond. Mr. Roth will guide you through this year-long class, giving you the tools needed to become an excellent student in all you want to achieve in your educational career. We will spend our time together learning how to become better organized, taking field trips to high school and college campuses, working in tutorial teams to help you stay on top of your coursework, participating in fun motivational activities, and being introduced to future career and college pathways from guest speakers. Parents - AVID is a program that runs all the way through 12th grade at all of our VUSD campuses. Your student will be helped, here, in 8th grade on how to continue in the AVID program in high school. In high school, AVID offers opportunities and education on college applications, scholarships, career education, tutoring with college tutors, field trips to university campuses throughout California, and building a strong relationship with your AVID “family”.

**CTE DIGITAL MEDIA PRODUCTION AND ROBOTICS****1 semester**

The Advanced Digital Media Production course further develops students understanding of occupations and educational opportunities associated with the arts, media, and entertainment fields. This program of study will explore the fields of graphic design, 3-Dimensional Design, audio and video production, and video game and robotics design and development. Through a project-based model, students will learn industry level skills that lead to a potential career in a number of digital media disciplines.

**CRAFTS 7/8****1 semester**

This course is designed in connection with 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade math, science and world geography curriculum, investigating a variety of three-dimensional art forms. Students will be working with paper maché, clay, fabric, paint and other materials in a variety of craft projects. This is a very “hands-on” course and will help the student better understand the world through the study of each culture’s art, music, dance and drama. There are two separate components of crafts within our program. Students may take one semester of Crafts in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and one semester of Crafts in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. There are fees associated with projects that students take home.

**ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE****1 semester**

Do you enjoy being in the outdoors and working with your hands? Do you want to learn more about growing, cooking, and eating new, interesting foods? Then this class is for you! Environmental Horticulture (also known as “The Gardening Class”) is the art and science of growing plants, both edible and ornamental. This class will be a hands-on experience in developing and maintaining a vegetable garden on our campus. Mr. Roth will present lessons on soil preparation, seeds, planting, plant life cycles, the garden habitat, harvesting, composting, from farm to table nutrition, and foods from around the world.

**HOME ARTS 7/8****1 semester**

Students will have an opportunity to use a sewing machine to learn basic sewing skills and construct a project, which traditionally has been a stuffed animal or sports ball. They will also work in small groups for a variety of cooking experiences using microwave ovens, conventional ovens, and blenders. Students will learn about nutrition and kitchen and food safety. There are fees associated with the projects that students take home.

**INDUSTRIAL & ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGY****1 semester**

This course is designed for students who would like to explore different areas of technology found in today’s world. It is intended to provide an awareness of material processes and industrial concepts by allowing students to complete various lab exercises. Projects and activities in the metals area will incorporate the use of sheet metal equipment, MIG welding, CNC plasma cutting, and other metal forming tools and machines. The other part of the class gives an introduction to basic electricity and electronics through the use of soldering electronic parts and kits, and robotics exploration (including drone technology). **This is a hands-on class in which the student is required to wear safety glasses while in the lab.** There are fees associated with projects that students take home. Due to unforeseen equipment failures, material shortages, and/or curriculum standards, the type and number of projects can vary or change. Note: Students will be required to pass a computer-generated lessons and safety test on each piece of equipment used in the lab.

**ASSOCIATED STUDENT BODY (ASB)/LEADERSHIP****1 semester**

Students in this class become a very important part of Balboa’s student body as they work on activities for all students. Their efforts help determine the atmosphere at Balboa. Students are expected to set a positive example for others as they work to develop responsibility, initiative, leadership and school pride. This class might require extra effort and extra time beyond regular class time.

**Note: Special application form and teacher approval required. To be considered, all students must have received a “C” or greater in each class from the previous semester and must NOT be enrolled in Independent P.E. Good citizenship is also required.**

**SPANISH I****1 year**

This course aims to develop students' ability to understand, speak, read and write Spanish within the limits of the material studied. The students will develop the listening and speaking skills necessary for effective Spanish communication. This is a high school level course with weekly tests and quizzes designed for students with no prior knowledge of Spanish. Cultural insights and appreciation of Spanish-speaking countries are acquired as an integral part of the language-learning experience. An emphasis is on oral communication and practice at home is regularly required. Students who successfully pass both semesters of this elective course may have the opportunity to enter into Spanish 2 during their freshman year of high school.

**WOOD 7/8****1 semester**

This course introduces students to the basics of woodworking. The proper and safe usage of hand and power tools will be emphasized and enforced. All students will be required to pass a computer-generated lessons and safety test on each piece of woodworking equipment used in the lab. Students have the opportunity to use the following woodworking machines: drill press, band saw, jig (scroll) saw, belt and disc sander, router/shaper table, and wood lathe. We are also fortunate enough to have a CNC (computer controlled) wood lathe and router for students to gain experience. Upon completion of instruction on hand and power tool safety and usage, each student will construct between three to five required lab projects. Students must wear safety glasses in the lab. There are fees associated with projects that students take home. Due to unforeseen equipment failures, material shortages, and/or curriculum guidelines, the type and number of projects can vary or change.

**YEARBOOK****1 semester**

The yearbook class is primarily responsible for the school yearbook. The book is written and pictures are digitally photographed by the yearbook staff. Staff positions are open to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, by application, teacher recommendation and counselor approval. Desirable yearbook staff qualifications include the willingness to give and receive feedback, the ability to follow through and complete responsibilities in a timely manner, a commitment to quality, using personal time to accomplish assigned tasks, and the flexibility necessary to work in a team. Students must feel comfortable learning and applying cutting edge digital and internet-based technology. Beyond the yearbook, the class is responsible for the DVD yearbook, the newspaper (The Balboa Times), a weekly newscast, a monthly video newscast, and a digital magazine. This class is run like a business with a student leader (CEO), managers, and workers. Participants in this class will have a major impact on the Balboa community.

**BEGINNING BAND****1 year commitment**

Beginning Band is a year-long musical ensemble commitment open to all students who desire to learn a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument. Emphasis in this course is placed on teaching basic instrumental skills and music reading through a sequential and standards-based approach to music education. Our hope is that students will advance into higher-level ensembles. This group performs 3-5 times per year. Attendance at all performances is mandatory.

**BEGINNING STRINGS****1 year commitment**

Beginning Strings is a year-long musical ensemble commitment open to all students who desire to learn the violin, viola, cello or string bass. Emphasis in this course is placed on teaching basic string orchestra instrumental skills and music reading through a sequential and standards-based approach to music education. Our hope is that students will advance into higher-level ensembles. This group performs 3-5 times per year. Attendance at all performances is mandatory.

**CHORUS****1 year commitment**

Chorus is a year-long musical ensemble commitment open to all students who enjoy and/or would like to learn how to sing. Its purpose is to develop a positive attitude in choral music and an understanding of group singing. Students will develop skills in ensemble singing and an understanding of the nature, structure, and meaning of music. A large focus of the course is on the development of basic to intermediate music skills with an emphasis on performing choral literature of various styles. The chorus may perform in school/community programs and may represent the school in choral festivals. Attendance at all performances is mandatory.

**CONCERT BAND****1 year commitment**

Prerequisite: Participation in either elementary or middle school band for at least one year and/or consent of the instructor. Concert Band is a year-long musical ensemble commitment for intermediate/advanced musicians. Emphasis in this course is placed on tone, technique, and development of musicianship. Our hope is that students will advance into a higher-level of musicianship. This group performs at festivals and concerts of various types at various times throughout the year. Attendance at all performances is mandatory.

**STRING ORCHESTRA****1 year commitment**

Prerequisite: Participation in either elementary or middle school string orchestra for at least one year and/or consent of the instructor. String Orchestra is a year-long instrumental ensemble commitment comprised solely of stringed instruments. Performance repertoire includes varied literature, including contemporary styles. Class activities are designed to continue to develop students' individual and ensemble performance techniques, with emphasis on such aspects as bowing techniques, tone production, intonation, phrasing and expression. This group performs at festivals and concerts of various types at set times throughout the year. Attendance at all performances is mandatory.