

Autrey Mill Middle School

8th grade Curriculum Night

September 5, 2019

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the Autrey Mill Middle School Connections program for the 2019-2020 school year! Our classes offer a variety of experiences in three different areas of study: vocational education, fine arts, and personal living skills.

During this school year, your child will take a total of eight connections classes each of which will last for nine weeks. If your child is enrolled in a music program such as band, orchestra, or chorus, four of those classes will be filled by the yearlong music class. Video Journalism is also offered as a yearlong course through an application process. Intro to Art will fill two connections classes during the course of the year for the students accepted into this course as it is a semester long course. Each class meets approximately 50 minutes in length for five days a week. These classes are curricular subjects for which students receive grades. Materials used by students include locally adopted texts, teacher made resources, and laboratory equipment. Common Core Standards are integrated into each of the connections classes through the teaching of each subjects' curriculum standards. These standards support other academic subjects in the teaching of literacy and vocabulary.

Throughout your child's middle school career, he/she will take a variety of classes that might include: Marketing, Technological Systems, Video Broadcasting/Communications, , Theatre, Visual Arts, Adventure Quest, Physical Education, and Health.

If your child is interested in joining band, chorus, or orchestra, please contact the music teachers so a schedule change can be made. At least two years of prior experience or private lessons are needed to participate in these classes.

Connections classes have various curricula which call for many hands-on type activities and the use of lab equipment; therefore, it is essential that students display appropriate behavior in class. It is also expected that each student will be on time, come prepared every day, participate in class, respect the rights of others, and respect the school. (Prompt – Prepared – Polite - Present- Positive)

While each connections class may require specific supplies necessary for its curriculum, students should expect to bring notebook paper, a pencil, ink pen, their iPad, and AMMS agenda to class every day. More specific instructions about supplies will be listed in the course syllabus for each class.

We look forward to working with each of you as we “Prepare today's students for tomorrow's challenges”. Feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

The Connections and PE/Health Staff

Staff Name	Class Taught	Help Session
Wendy Wilson wilsonwm@fultonschools.org	Band ammsband.org	Mornings 8:00 – 8:45AM by appt.
Vanessa Edwards edwardsv1@fultonschools.org	Chorus autreymillchorus.com	Monday & Friday mornings 8:00 – 8:30AM by appt.
Tim Anderson anderson1@fultonschools.org	Orchestra ammsmusic.org	Mornings 8:00 – 8:45AM by appt.
Garrison Everett everettg@fultonschools.org	Video Broadcasting/ Communications	Mornings 8:00 – 8:30AM by appt.
Jennifer McCann mccannj@fultonschools.org	Visual Arts	Tuesday & Friday (by appt.) 8:00-8:30AM
Ed Clawson clawson@fultonschools.org	Technology Education	Wednesday mornings 8:00 - 8:30AM by appt.
Shelly McCook mccookl@fultonschools.org	Theatre	Monday mornings 8:00 - 8:45am
Vanessa Yasuda yasudav@fultonschools.org	Marketing	Wednesday and Friday (by appt.) 8:00 – 8:30AM
Chelsea Lloyd lloydch@fultonschools.org	PE/Health	PE/Adventure Quest – Monday (by appt.) Health -Wednesday (by appt.) 8:00 – 8:30AM
Joy Davis davisjoy@fultonschools.org	PE/Health	PE/Adventure Quest – Monday (by appt.) Health -Wednesday (by appt.) 8:00 – 8:30AM
Jackie Larson larsonj@fultonschools.org	PE/Health	PE/Adventure Quest – Monday (by appt.) Health -Wednesday (by appt.) 8:00 – 8:30AM
Todd Shelnett shellnettT@fultonschools.org	PE/Health/AQ	PE/Adventure Quest – Monday (by appt.) Health -Wednesday (by appt.) 8:00 – 8:30AM
David Buice buice@fultonschools.org	PE/Health	PE/Adventure Quest – Monday (by appt.) Health -Wednesday (by appt.) 8:00 – 8:30AM
Chuck Mertes mertes@fultonschools.org	PE/Health	PE/Adventure Quest – Monday (by appt.) Health -Wednesday (by appt.) 8:00 – 8:30AM
Dan Kearney kearney@fultonschools.org	PE/Health	PE/Adventure Quest – Monday (by appt.) Health -Wednesday (by appt.) 8:00 – 8:30AM

Band – Band is a year-long performance oriented class. During the course of this class we will continue to work on the development of general music skills, performance skills, and the technical aspects of an instrument through a variety of music selections. Students will gain a deeper knowledge of reading music and sight-reading skills as well as study theory and the history of music and composers in preparation for high school. A variety of concert and performance opportunities for both large groups and individuals have been scheduled throughout the year including participating at a football game with the Johns Creek High School Band. Students are expected to attend all scheduled rehearsals and concerts as this is a performance class. 8th grade band is open to any student with at least two years of prior experience or students taking private lessons.

Chorus – Chorus is a year-long sequential class and is open to all interested students. During the year students will perform in a variety of concerts during and after school. Five concerts have been scheduled to date, with additional district and statewide honor groups available. Chorus students learn and perform varying choral styles, learn different performance practices, and with varying choral techniques; all from memory. Since this is a performance class, students are expected to attend all scheduled performances.

Orchestra – The orchestra is one of the fine art connections classes offered. The 8th grade orchestra class is a continuation of the foundations in string playing set up in 6th grade and 7th grade. This performing orchestra will have the opportunity to perform not only at school events but at diverse locations throughout the community. In addition to their continued education in string pedagogy students expand on their knowledge of theory and aural skills from both a western and multi-cultural perspective.

Theatre – A nine-week connections course that will introduce the student to theatre terminology, design, improvisation, stage basics, characterization, and the production process while in a black box setting. The class will be a forum for students to become expressive, assertive and develop self-confidence.

Video Journalism/ Applications of Communications – This is a nine-week course that introduces students to the basic concepts of the Communications career fields. Students will explore these career fields within cooperative learning simulation projects. This program facilitates basic level student led broadcast/video productions under the guidance of the instructor. Topics covered may include, but are not limited to: history of mass media, terminology, safety, basic equipment, script writing, storyboarding, production teams, planning, writing, directing, recording and editing a production, graphic communications, and professional ethics. This course will introduce students to opportunities and high school Career Pathways in Graphic Communications, Broadcast & Video Production, and Graphic Design.

Visual Arts – In this course students will learn how color is used for an expressive effect in art. They will also design multiple sketches or solutions for a single idea. Symbols and messages will be studied and conveyed through 2-D or 3-D functional art. The four-step art criticism process will be taught and students will develop their personal views on aesthetics issues. Selected art styles of the Modern Era (19th and 20th centuries) will also be discussed. Art history, art criticism, and aesthetics are imbedded into each lesson. Students display their knowledge through drawing, painting, sculpture, written tests, writing assignments, and self-evaluation. Their art will be created in the style of realism, formalism, or expressionism. Students will plan and create two to three high quality art projects over the nine-week period.

Marketing - Using project-based learning students are introduced to the principles of marketing. The Middle School Marketing Program offers 3 sequential courses; however, they do not require a pre-requisite. 6th Grade students take the Basic Skills of Marketing course. Exploring Marketing Education is offered to 7th graders. And the 8th Grade course is Pathways in Marketing. Students have the opportunity to participate in local and state DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) co-curricular events and club meetings that reinforce the students' marketing coursework and develop leadership skills.

Technological Systems – This is a project-based learning course that is designed for students to utilize the universal systems model including input, process, output and feedback. Students will examine various systems, such as; electrical, magnetic, mechanical, fluid, structural, natural, thermal, chemical, and information. Students will learn how various systems work together. Technological Systems reinforces the areas of math, science, social studies, and language arts through practical application and/or hands on activities. At the end of this course, the students will be able to utilize the universal system model to design and produce a technological product.

Adventure Quest – The Adventure Quest course is characterized by an atmosphere that is fun, supportive and challenging. Games and group problem-solving initiatives will be used to help students learn the value of teamwork, gain decision making strategies, practice leadership skills and appreciate individual differences. Students will also increase their knowledge in outdoor skills such as orienteering, and camping skills. This course will challenge students to go beyond their perceived boundaries.

Physical Education – Physical Education classes offer a developmentally appropriate and comprehensive experience focusing on the development of motor skills, physical fitness, emotional strength and maturity, values, healthful decision making and the pursuit of lifelong health and fitness. During the four blocks of Physical Education students are offered a variety of courses including fitness, individual sports, team sports, dance, recreational games, and track and field. The primary goal of the instruction is to improve motor skills and fitness levels, experience success in movement, and develop an appreciation for activity.

Health – The enhancement of health knowledge, attitudes and problem-solving skills is the focus of instruction in middle school health education. Health objectives are taught in a health connections class. Health education is built on a comprehensive approach with each of the following components covered during grades six through eight: nutrition, emotional and mental health, safety and injury prevention, growth and development, family and relationship skills, diseases and disorders, consumer health, environmental health, and substance abuse.

A variety of intramural and extramural sports are offered throughout the year. Eighth graders will have the opportunity to represent Autrey Mill in tennis, basketball, soccer, volleyball, tumbling, and track. Contact Dan Kearney for more information.