



Grand Ledge Beagle Middle School 2025-2026 Elective Course Descriptions



8th Grade

Full Year Music Class Choices

Band Students learn and play instruments together in a class that is suited for their individual playing ability, from beginning through advanced. Beginning Band is for those participating for the first time...no music-reading experience required! Those who already play instruments will be assessed for placement in the appropriate group for their level.

Choir Have fun singing in a group setting and making friends, all while learning the basics of music reading in Grand Ledge Middle School Choirs! Choirs are voice separated for a great learning environment for all singers. Grand Ledge Middle choir performs four concerts throughout the year: Fall, Holiday, Festival, and our Spring Pop Concert. Solo opportunities are available throughout the year as well.

Full Year High School World Language Class Choices [8th Grade ONLY]

These are very rigorous classes, taught at the 9th Grade Level and the final grade will transfer to the high school. Students must maintain a C average in these classes each trimester to remain in the class.

High School French 1 French 1 is an introductory course to one of the most popular languages in the world. Students will learn French through a variety of listening, reading, writing, and speaking activities. Some objectives will be: colors, numbers, days/months, greetings/good-byes, and ways to exchange basic information about self and others. As students learn the French language, they will learn about Francophone countries as well.

High School German 1 German 1 is an introductory course to German language and culture. Students will learn German through a variety of listening, reading, writing, and speaking activities. Some objectives will be: colors, numbers, days/months, greetings/good-byes, and ways to exchange basic information about self and others. As students learn the German language, they will learn about German culture and its contributions to society.

High School Spanish 1 Spanish 1 is an introductory course to the second most popular language in our country. Students will learn Spanish through a variety of listening, reading, writing, and speaking activities. Some objectives will be: colors, numbers, days/months, greetings/good-byes, and ways to exchange basic information about self and others. As students learn the Spanish language, they will learn about the Latino culture and its contributions to society.

Trimester Health/Physical Education Electives

Health [7th Grade Requirement] Students will learn about the importance of nutrition as well as the importance of physical activity. Additional topics covered: recognizing emotions and how to respond, dangers of alcohol and certain drugs, dangers of tobacco and vaping, human sexuality and the risks and behaviors associated with viruses and diseases. *Students may be exempt from the HIV/Human Sexuality Unit through a waiver.*

Physical Education (1-3 Trimesters) This course is designed to teach and develop skills, so students can play (with confidence) many team and individual sports. It also contains a fitness component, in which cardio and strength are targeted, as well as numerous lifelong skills units.

Trimester Art Classes

Exploratory Art Students will learn how to express their creativity while incorporating the Elements of Art: line, shape, value, form, color, texture and space. Projects may include colored pencil drawings, oil pastel, marker, sculpture, painting, traditional and non-traditional materials. Students will also learn about art movements and famous artists from history and present day.

Creative Crafting A craft based Art course intended for the students who are interested in the creative process, but not interested in the fine art aspect. Students will explore the Elements of Art, experiment with a variety of art materials and create FUNCTIONAL as well as decorative crafts. Materials may include the use of hot glue, fabric, yarn, paint, cardboard, etc. to create modern crafts.

STEAM Based Art Projects in this class are inspired by the Biological Sciences, Math, Engineering, observational drawing and Technology. Students will learn to plan, create and present their creations as they relate to Elements of Art.

Mixed Media Art Focuses on design and color throughout a variety of media/materials. Projects use the Elements of Art and Principles of Design to allow students to explore their creativity while enhancing their artistic skills. Projects may include collage, clay, sculpture, painting and drawing. Students will also learn how to critique artwork in small groups and individually.



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Trimester STEM Electives STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics	
<u>STEM - Introduction to Computers</u> This one-trimester course teaches students technology skills to be successful in their core classes. Students will build knowledge and learn new tech skills for the 21st century. Cyber safety, being a positive tech citizen, keyboarding skills and gaining knowledge of the Google and Microsoft Suite programs will be a strong emphasis.	<u>STEM - App Creators [Project Lead the Way]</u> This unit will expose students to computer science by computationally analyzing and developing solutions to authentic problems through mobile app development, and will convey the positive impact of the application of computer science to other disciplines and to society.
<u>STEM - Medical Detectives/Crime Scene Investigation [Project Lead the Way]</u> This course examines how science is used to collect and analyze evidence in two important fields: medicine and crime scene investigation. Students will take on the role of real-life medical detectives as they solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs. Students will measure and interpret vital signs, examine nervous system structures and function, and investigate disease outbreaks. In the second half of the class, students will focus on some of the forensic science techniques and practices that can be used to help solve crimes. Evidence that students will examine includes fingerprints, handwriting and ink chromatography among others.	<u>STEM - Computer Science for Innovators and Makers [Project Lead the Way]</u> This course will allow students to program a micro:bit using block coding. Throughout the course, students will learn about programming for the physical world by blending hardware design and software development. They will design and build a physical computing device, interactive art installation, or wearable, and plan and develop code for microcontrollers that bring their physical designs to life.
<u>STEM - Introduction to Engineering Design and Modeling [Project Lead the Way]</u> Students discover the design process and develop an understanding of the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They are then challenged and empowered to use and apply what they've learned throughout the unit to design a therapeutic toy for a child who has cerebral palsy.	<u>STEM - Automation and Robotics [Project Lead the Way]</u> Students trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Students use the VEX Robotics® platform to design, build, and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, toll booths, and robotic arms.

Trimester Creative Expression Electives		
<u>Creative Writing</u> Are you looking to be inspired to think outside the box and explore different genres and different ways to share your writing? Look no more.... This exciting class explores different genres. The emphasis is on exploring new ideas, taking risks in writing, and having fun writing in new genres. As a writer, you'll find support and encouragement in judgment-free writing circles. You will transform unforgettable experiences into unforgettable pieces of writing.	<u>Intro to Acting</u> Action! Are you interested in improv, acting and performance? Well, you've come to the right place. This class teaches the many skills needed to become a better actor and performer. This is a performance-based class where you will perform in front of other students. You will end the trimester by performing a memorized play for an audience of your peers. So, if you're looking to get out of your comfort zone and improve your performance skills, this is the class for you!	<u>Musical Theater</u> Do you love to sing, dance, and act? If so, Musical Theater is the class for you! This one trimester class will go through the casting, rehearsing, and production process of musical theater scenes and songs leading to an end of the trimester performance! This is a performance-based class where you will perform in front of other students.



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Choosing Your Electives: Please use the section below to list out your elective requests with your parents:

Interested in taking TWO Year-Long Elective Courses? If yes, then fill out this section only. If not, then cross off this section completely.. If you are requesting two year-long elective requests, you do not request primary, trimester-long elective requests. However, you do need to choose at least 4 alternate, trimester-long requests if we cannot satisfy your Band and Choir request for some reason. List Two, Year-Long Requests: Year-long #1: _____ Year-long #2: _____ List four, trimester-long alternates: Alternate #1: _____ Alternate #2: _____ Alternate #3: _____ Alternate #4: _____	Interested in taking ONE year-long elective course? If yes, then fill out this section only. If not, then cross off this section completely. List Year-Long Elective: Year-Long: _____ List at least three primary requests below: Primary #1: _____ Primary #2: _____ Primary #3: _____ List at least four alternate requests below: Alternate #1: _____ Alternate #2: _____ Alternate #3: _____ Alternate #4: _____ Note: PE can be requested up to 3 times. PE may be taken again even if you took it as a 7th grader.	Interested in taking trimester-long electives only? If so, then only fill out the this section below: Choose 6 primary trimester-long electives: Primary #1: _____ Primary #2: _____ Primary #3: _____ Primary #4: _____ Primary #5: _____ Primary #6: _____ Choose 4 alternate requests: Alternate #1: _____ Alternate #2: _____ Alternate #3: _____ Alternate #4: _____ Note: PE can be requested up to 3 times. PE may be taken again even if you took it as a 7th grader.
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Name: _____