Rainbow Lake Middle School

Exploratory electives are offered daily as well. Exploratory electives are an integral part of an effective middle school program. It is important that middle level students experience a wide range of exploratory offerings so that they can make informed choices about elective offerings when they become high school students.

Physical Education/Health is of great importance for young people today and is a required class for all students each year of their middle school experience.

Rainbow Lake Middle School offers the following exploratory electives:

Art (6,7,8)	Fundamentals of Computing Part 2 (8th)	PLTW (8th): Flight and Space
AVID (6,7,8)	IT Education Google Basics (6th)	PSAT Prep (8)
Band (6,7,8)	Modern Broadcast and Journalism (6,7,8)	Orchestra (6,7,8)
Chorus (6,7,8)	Physical Education (6,7,8)	Spanish (6,7,8)
Financial Literacy (8th)	PLTW (6th): App Creators	Theatre (6,7,8)
Fundamentals of Computing Part 1 (7th)	PLTW (7th): Automations and Robotics	

EXPLORATORY ELECTIVES

NOTE TO PARENTS AND STUDENTS: Exploratory electives should be studied, and selections made carefully. Every effort will be made to schedule students in requested classes. However, scheduling conflicts or available seats may prevent students from being enrolled in selected exploratory courses.

ART

Course Title(s): Art 6, Art 7, Art 8
Art offers students an education in the visual arts. Students can develop basic and advanced skills that are aligned with the South Carolina Visual Art Standards. Throughout the art course, students can use a variety of materials, practice traditional and modern techniques, study different artists and cultures and produce final artworks that are personal to the students' own styles and interpretations. Students can learn about art careers and how art applies to other subjects. Students learn and practice how to critique their own work and the works of others. **An art fee of $10 is required at the beginning of each semester.**
Prerequisite: No prerequisite required.

AVID

Course Title(s): AVID 6, AVID 7, and AVID 8
Advancement VIA Individual Determination (AVID) is a college and career readiness program designed to challenge, support, and inspire students in an effort to make sure they are college and career ready. We focus on collaboration skills, problem-solving, inquiry, organization, goal-setting, college and career research, and numerous other topics. Students participate in various community service activities and visit local colleges each year to experience a variety of campuses.
Prerequisite: No prerequisite required. Students who enroll in AVID CANNOT be enrolled in Honors classes, or receive support through a 504 plan or IEP. Students must have good behavior and good attendance.

BAND

Course Title(s): Band 6, Band 7, Band 8
Band is offered for students in sixth, seventh and eighth grade who are interested in learning to play a brass, woodwind, or percussion instrument. Band is a performance-based class where individuals are graded on their effort, progress, and ability to read and perform their music. The Rainbow Lake Middle School band participates in statewide band festivals, presents a Christmas and Spring Concert, performs at school pep rallies, and numerous other events! Sixth grade students do not need any prior musical experience to join the band.
Note: Students are required to provide their own instrument.
Prerequisite for Band 6: No prerequisite required.
Prerequisite for Band 7: Completion of Band 6
Prerequisite for Band 8: Completion of Band 7

CATE COURSES

Course Title(s): IT Education Google Basics Grade 6
This course will prepare sixth grade students to effectively, ethically, and safely use internet connected tools as well as learn computer basics. Students will learn essential information about hardware, software, and the Internet. Students will use these tools in responsible and productive ways to accomplish authentic tasks.
Prerequisite: No prerequisite required.

Course Title(s): Fundamentals of Computing Part 1 Grade 7
This course is designed to introduce students to the field of computer science through an exploration of engaging and accessible topics using the CodeHS application. Through creativity and innovation, students will use critical thinking and problem solving skills to implement projects that are relevant to students' lives. Students will gain a fundamental understanding of digital citizenship and cyber hygiene, the history and operation of computers, programming, networks and the internet.
Prerequisite: No prerequisite required. ½ high school credit class

Course Title(s): Fundamentals of Computing Part 2 Grade 8
This course is a continuation of Fundamentals of Computing Part 1. Students will gain a fundamental understanding of JavaScript, graphics, HTML, CSS, web development. Students will also be introduced to computing careers and will examine societal and ethical issues of computing.
Prerequisite: Completion of Fundamentals of Computing Part 1; ½ high school credit class

CHORUS

Course Title(s): Chorus 6, Chorus 7, Chorus 8
Chorus is a performance-based class designed for students who desire to sing and to learn about various styles of singing. Students will learn proper singing skills including balance and blend, tone production, enunciation, articulation, and breath control. Students will also learn basic music theory, sight reading and ear training skills. In addition to various auditioned-based events, performance opportunities throughout the year may include winter and spring concerts and school performances.
Prerequisite: No prerequisite required.

FINANCIAL LITERACY

Course Title(s): Financial Literacy Grade 8
Financial Literacy is designed to introduce the student to basic financial literacy skills to help them make responsible financial decisions. Concepts covered include financial planning, bank accounts, credit and loans, wages and taxes, investments, and insurance. Students will gain the information and skills to implement a life-long plan for financial success.
Prerequisite: No prerequisite required.

MODERN BROADCAST AND JOURNALISM

Course Title(s): Broadcast 6, Broadcast 7, Broadcast 8
Modern Broadcast and Journalism is a project-based course focused on creating engaging digital media that highlights the students, events, and culture of Rainbow Lake Middle School. Students produce short-form videos, interviews, graphics, and storytelling projects while working through production cycles. The course emphasizes communication, collaboration, video production, graphic design, and responsible digital citizenship, teaching students how to use media correctly, ethically, and professionally. This course builds confidence, self efficacy, creativity, and real-world media skills while promoting a positive representation of RLMS.
Prerequisite: No prerequisite required.

ORCHESTRA

Course Title(s): Orchestra 6
Orchestra offers sixth grade students the opportunity to develop music skills and techniques by learning how to play a stringed instrument (violin, viola, cello or bass). Students will also learn proper posture, left and right hand skills, listening skills, creativity, and music literacy. Students will perform in winter and spring

concerts and can perform at SCMEA Solo and Ensemble Festival.
Note: Students are required to provide their own instrument.
Prerequisite: No prerequisite required.

Course Title(s): Orchestra 7, Orchestra 8
Orchestra offers seventh and eighth grade students the opportunity to continue developing music reading skills, theory, and string technique. Musical skills emphasized at this level include shifting, more intricate rhythms and learning to play various musical styles. Students have the opportunity to perform at winter and spring concerts, SCMEA Solo and Ensemble Festival, Jr. All-State and Region Orchestras, as well as SCMEA Concert Festival.
Note: Students are required to provide their own instrument.
Prerequisite for Orchestra 7: Completion of Orchestra 6
Prerequisite for Orchestra 8: Completion of Orchestra 7

PLTW (Project Lead the Way)

Course Title(s): App Creators Grade 6
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.
Prerequisite: No prerequisite required.

Course Title(s): Automations & Robotics Grade 7
Students learn about the history and impact of automation and robotics as they explore mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Using the VEX Robotics® platform, students apply what they know to design and program traffic lights, robotic arms, and more.
Prerequisite: No prerequisite required.

Course Title(s): Flight and Space Grade 8
The exciting world of aerospace comes alive through Flight and Space. Students explore the science behind aeronautics and use their knowledge and use their knowledge to design, build, and test an airfoil.
Prerequisite: No prerequisite required.

PSAT/TEST PREP

Course Title(s): PSAT Grade 8
PSAT/Test Prep is a course designed to help 8th grade Honors students prepare for the PSAT test in October of each year. PSAT stands for Preliminary SAT and is a suite of standardized tests created by the College Board. There are three versions of

the PSAT: the PSAT™ 8/9, the PSAT™ 10, and the PSAT/NMSQT. All versions of the PSAT assess college readiness and provide feedback on reading, writing and language, and math skills. In addition, the PSAT/NMSQT test can qualify students for the National Merit Scholarship Program.
Prerequisite: Students must have all A/B's in their classes.

SPANISH

Course Title(s): Spanish 6, Spanish 7 and Spanish 8
Spanish is designed to expose students to Spanish language and culture and introduce them to vocabulary and simple grammatical concepts in order to prepare them for entry level high school Spanish. The 3 modes of communication (interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational) different per grade level: students will be exposed to different material in Spanish 6,
Spanish 7, and Spanish 8.
Prerequisite: No prerequisite required.

THEATRE

Course Title(s): Theatre 6, Theatre 7, Theatre 8
This course is a performance-based class designed to introduce students to acting and the various stage media that accompany modern theater. Students will learn about topics both onstage and backstage, including vocal quality, pantomime, set design, and prop creation, while learning to identify these aspects in dramatic media. Most importantly, students will learn to create a story as an ensemble utilizing varied skills and techniques. Performance opportunities may include school performances throughout the year for interested students.
Prerequisite: No prerequisite required