South Wasco County Middle and High School Elective Choices
Spring Semester, 2026

Below are the elective choices for the upcoming 6th and 7th periods (last and second to last periods of the day). Students will be choosing their 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices via a Google form in the upcoming week. This document allows you to see what elective options your student has available to them and allows you to help guide their choices, if desired. For each elective title, a grade range for eligibility is listed and the instructor name. Following the tables of options, you will find short descriptions of the course content.

Summary of Electives offered for Semester 2, 2025 - 2026 School Year:

6th Period Elective Choices:

1	Middle School Leadership/Study Hall	6th - 8th	Howell
2	Middle School Skills Development	6th - 8th	Unti
3	Survive The Wild	6th - 12th	Hansen
4	Musical Theater	6th - 12th	Rinearson
5	Piano	6th - 12th	Wills
6	Sports Skills	7th - 12th	Carter
7	Computer Science	7th - 12th	Sowell
8	Media Studies	8th - 12th	Wells
9	Creative Writing	8th - 12th	Knight
10	Manufacturing	9th - 12th	Henson
11	Independent Online Learning	9th - 12th	Rethwill

7th Period Elective Choices:

1	Middle School STEM	6th - 8th	Howell
2	Reading Intervention	6th - 8th	Jackson
3	Music Foundations	6th - 10th	Hansen
4	Social Dance	7th - 12th	Rinearson
5	Emergency Medical Responder	9th - 12th	Wills
6	Agriculture in Wasco County	7th - 12th	Carter
7	Robotics Engineering	8th - 12th	Sowell
8	Night at the Museum	6th - 12th	Wells
9	Cooking & Cultures	8th - 12th	Knight
10	MakerSpace	9th - 12th	Malefyt
11	Manufacturing	9th - 12th	Henson
12	Independent Online Learning	10th - 12th	Rethwill
13	High School Skills Development	9th - 12th	Unti

Please Note: **New 6th period elective offering! Survive the Wild - Learn wilderness survival and bushcraft skills!

**New 7th period elective offering! Emergency Medical Responder - A course leading to certification as a Medical First Responder!

6th Period Elective Choices - Full Descriptions:

	Course Title	Grade Range & Maximum Enrollment	Instructor & Course Description
1	**Middle School Leadership/Middle School Study Hall**	**Grade Levels:** *6th -8th* **Required for middle school student council representatives. Optional for others.*	***Mrs. Howell*** *In this course, the Middle School Student Council will meet in order to complete the operations of the student council. All Student Council Officers are required to take this course, but all students who are interested in being part of the decisions, vision, events, and planning for the middle school are encouraged to join. We have official meetings every week, and we also spend class time and non-school days doing community service. In this course, you will learn about being a leader, organization, fundraising, community service, and event planning. Students work as a team to create a positive community where everyone can engage, have fun, and make lasting memories.*
2	**Middle School School Skills Development**	**Grade Levels:** *6th -8th* **By invitation only*	***Mr. Unti*** *During this class, there will be a study hall offered where students who need extra help and are behind in classes can get extra help they need to get caught up and keep up with their work.*
3	**Survive the Wild!** ***Check it out! *New Elective!**	**Grade Levels:** *6th -12th*	***Mr. Hansen*** *Students will learn basic outdoor survival skills and bushcraft. We will also learn material applicable to the Oregon Hunter's Safety program.*
4	**Musical Theater**	**Grade Levels:** *6th -12th* **Max students (with TA): 30* *Max students (no TA): 15*	***Ms. Rinearson*** *Musical Theater courses provide students with the opportunity to explore and/or participate in various aspects of musical theater, including auditioning, singing, acting, and dancing. These courses review the history and evolution of musical theatre, its literature and artists, and styles of composition and vocal presentation. Students work collaboratively on performances, including solo, duet, and ensemble work.*
5	**Piano**	**Grade Levels:** *6th - 12th* **Limited to 9 students; preference will be given to previous Piano students*	***Mrs. Wills*** *In Beginning Piano, students will learn how to read music in treble and bass clefs and basic performance technique. This will involve some written work, flash cards, playing exercises (such as scales), and playing songs. Other activities will be added at the teacher's discretion. Playing in recitals outside of school hours will be required (one each semester). Students will be required to treat all equipment and materials with respect. As time allows, students will also learn about music history and famous composers from the classical period.*

6	**Sports Skills/Strengthening** (Weight training)	**Grade Levels:** *7th - 12th* *6th grade with application and approval	***Mrs. Carter*** *A course designed to provide students with the opportunity to improve their basic physical condition, secure useful neuromuscular development, and gain recreational skills. Routine weight training. We will teach safe lifting techniques and will record progress throughout the semester, with accessory work and muscle conditioning. During sports seasons, we will be improving our conditioning skills with specific drills related to traditional fall, winter and spring sports. We will conduct weight training and participate in circuits.*
7	**Computer Science 161 b**	**Grade Levels:** *7th - 12th* **Teacher permission required for 7-8 grades* **Possible CGCC college credit for grades 10-12* **Counts toward CTE Course of Study for 9th - 12th grades*	**Mr. Sowell** *CS161 is the gateway to the world of computer science and software development. In this hands-on course, students will learn the fundamentals of programming through one primary language, while exploring concepts that apply to virtually all modern languages. Topics include values, variables, conditionals, loops, functions, arrays, and data structures such as lists, dictionaries, tuples, and structures. Students will gain insight into how computers execute code, the distinction between a program and a computation, and how to write clear, reliable code with confidence in its correctness.* *Students will design algorithms and build simple programs to solve real-world problems, develop strong debugging and testing skills, and learn to document code using readable and professional programming styles. The course also introduces pathways to computing careers, offering a broader view of the field and its opportunities.* ***By the end of this course, students will be able to:*** ● *Identify and explore career paths in computer science and related fields.* ● *Design and implement algorithms to solve basic problems.* ● *Build programs using core programming elements like conditionals, loops, and functions.* ● *Understand and apply fundamental data structures (arrays, lists, dictionaries, tuples, and more).* ● *Debug and test programs systematically.* ● *Write well-documented, readable code using consistent style and commenting practices.*
8	**Media Studies Publication**	**Grade Levels:** *8th -12th*	**Mr. Wells** *In media studies we learn how to design and produce a yearbook. This involves taking pictures, editing in iPhoto, using the website to layout a page, and write headlines and captions.*

9	**Creative Writing**	**Grade Levels:** *8th - 12th* **Grades 6-7 with teacher recommendation* **No prerequisites* **Maximum: 20 students* **Students who have taken this course can take this again if they need an elective as the daily work will be somewhat different from previous semesters.*	***Ms. Knight*** *Develop and expand your current writing skills with creativity and develop style by increasing knowledge and use of literary devices, rhetorical strategies and structures, and vocabulary. We will also spend time regularly writing in journals to build fluency and select from several options longer pieces of formal text to write, edit, give peer feedback to, and revise. If possible, we will also publish one issue with your selected creative writing to share with the school in an informal 'zine (a small batch set of copies for the students and staff to enjoy).*
10	**Introduction & Advanced Manufacturing** ** (Continuation into Period 7, students can choose one or both)*	**Grade Levels:** *9th - 12th* **Counts toward CTE Course of Study* **(Maximum 10 students for safety purposes)* **Note that CTE courses operate as a professional work environment, so excellent attendance and a strong work ethic are expected.*	***Mr. Henson*** *This hands-on course introduces students to the exciting world of modern manufacturing through project-based learning and real-world applications. Students will explore key manufacturing processes including welding, CNC machining, CNC plasma cutting, metal bending, woodworking, and polymer fabrication. Using these tools and techniques, students will design and create functional products that connect to their local community and environment through place-based learning.* *In addition to building technical skills, students will gain valuable experience with industry standards in safety, precision, and production practices. Emphasis is also placed on developing durable workplace skills such as collaboration, problem-solving, communication, and adaptability—critical for success in any manufacturing career.* *By the end of the course, students will have a foundational understanding of how things are made, from concept to finished product, and be prepared for further study in advanced manufacturing, engineering, or skilled trades.*
11	**Independent Online Learning**	**Grade Levels:** *9th - 12th*	**Ms. Rethwill** *Intended for students in grades 9-12 seeking initial credit, credit recovery, or additional study time for college-level courses. Utilizing Edmentum, a comprehensive online learning platform, this class offers a flexible and self-paced approach to education.* ● *High school students who are credit deficient will be given priority enrollment.* ● *Students must be self-motivated and capable of managing their learning.* ● *This course requires students to take responsibility for their progress and deadlines.* *Effective time management and organizational skills are essential. Students should be able to prioritize tasks, set goals, and track their progress independently. While independence is key, students will have access to guidance and support from the course facilitator. Regular check-ins and progress monitoring ensure students stay on track and achieve their academic goals*

7th Period Elective Choices - Full Descriptions:

	Course Title	Grade Range & Maximum Enrollment	Instructor & Course Description
1	**Middle School STEM**	**Grade Levels:** *6th - 8th*	***Mrs. Howell*** *STEM in middle school gives you opportunities to dive deeper into STEM subjects and explore more challenging concepts. You will be introduced to complex engineering, robotics, prototyping, intermediate mathematics, computer science, and more.*
2	**Middle School Reading Intervention Support**	**Grade Levels:** *6th - 8th* **By invitation*	***Ms. Jackson*** *Targeted support for improving reading skill. Focus on phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.*
3	**Music Foundations**	**Grade Levels:** *6th -10th* **11th-12th graders with application and approval*	***Mr. Hansen*** *Have you ever wanted to write a song or play in a band? Music Foundations is the class for you! This class is open to students 6th through 10th grade. We will learn the basics of reading, writing, and playing music using ukuleles, guitars, percussion and voice. Large and small group performances will take place throughout the year. No experience required.*
4	**Social Dance**	**Grade Levels:** *6th -12th* **Max students (with TA): 30* *Max students (no TA): 15*	***Ms. Rinearson*** *Social Dance courses teach students the steps, spatial formations and patterns, appropriate partner etiquette, and the relationship of the dance(s) to specific music or musical forms as well as historical or cultural contexts. These courses emphasize the distinct forms of partner or group dances and may include a variety of options (e.g., ballroom, square, folk, barn, contra, circle, and line dances).*
5	**Emergency Medical Response** ***New Elective!**	**Grade Levels:** *9th - 12th* **Highly recommended for any students considering entering the medical field.*	***Mrs. Wills*** *In this class, you will learn some medical terminology, medical abbreviation, and human anatomy and development. You will learn how to care for patients in a variety of emergency situations, as well as how to decide what to do for a patient on the scene and while in the ambulance. Upon passing the final assessment, students 16 years of age or older will be state licensed and qualified as a first responder.* ***** New course! This course can lead to certification as a First Responder! Highly recommended for any students considering a career in the medical field!***

6	**Agriculture in Wasco County**	**Grade Levels:** *7th - 12th* **Prerequisite - Intro to Agriculture required.*	***Mrs. Carter*** *This class will bring in local farmers and ranchers to talk about and share activities related to their own practices in agriculture. Students will learn about crop rotation, dry farming vs. irrigation, range land practices for livestock, and other related topics. Students will also be introduced to the wide range of agricultural practices in the state of Oregon, as well as the advancements in technologies in the industry.*
7	**Robotics Engineering**	**Grade Levels:** *7th - 12th* **Teacher permission required for 8th grade*	**Mr. Sowell** *Dive into the exciting world of robotics with the VEX Robotics Engineering elective! This hands-on course introduces students to the fundamentals of engineering, programming, and problem-solving through the design, construction, and operation of VEX robots. Working individually and in teams, students will explore key STEM concepts such as mechanics, electronics, and coding using the VEX V5 platform and VEXcode programming environment.* *Throughout the course, students will apply the engineering design process to build robots capable of completing real-world challenges and participate in classroom competitions modeled after official VEX Robotics Competition (VRC) events and possibly the VEX competition itself.. Emphasis is placed on teamwork, critical thinking, and innovation.* *By the end of the course, students will have gained valuable experience in robot construction, autonomous programming, and strategic planning—skills that are transferable to college, careers in STEM, and beyond.*
8	**Night at the Museum**	**Grade Levels:** *8th -12th*	**Mr. Wells** *This class looks at ancient history and uses projects to enhance learning. This term we will study the history of Ancient China and South America.*
9	**Cooking & Cultures**	**Grade Levels:** *6th - 12th* **No prerequisites* **Maximum 12 students*	**Ms. Knight** *This course is meant to study a select number of cultures and generally investigate the development of the culture in terms of some historical events, social developments, and the cuisines that have developed due to geography, climate, and/or outside influences, etc. For each culture studied, at least one recipe will be researched, recipes consulted, ingredients purchased, and the food prepared for all to share. Students will partner up to cook and serve their chosen recipe, which means we will not be cooking every day.* *Students need to earn their food handler's card by learning required content and taking the test ($10), with some class time provided, before participating in any food preparation.*

			If schedules allow, we hope to take a field trip to a restaurant in The Dalles, Hood River, Madras, Redmond, Bend, or Portland to enjoy a meal. A guest speaker or cook is also an option to meet with, discuss, and share cooking techniques. *Note 1: Some activities and the number of food items prepared will depend on fundraising completed by the instructor over the summer!* *Note 2: This class is not intended to teach all of the basic cooking skills or techniques*
10	**MakerSpace**	**Grade Levels:** *9th - 12th* **Note that CTE courses operate as a professional work environment, so excellent attendance and a strong work ethic are essential.* **Maximum 8 Students*	***Ms. Malefyt*** *Students will have the opportunity to learn how to use a variety of equipment in our new MakerSpace Lab which may include, but is not limited to, our vinyl cutters (Cricut and Roland), button machines, our new Epson sublimation printer, Fusion IQ t-shirt press and hat presses, laser engravers, 3D printers, sewing machines, leatherworking tools, etc. to make some products of their own and some products for our school to sell.*
11	**Introduction & Advanced Manufacturing** ** (Continuation into Period 7, students can choose one or both)*	**Grade Levels:** *9th - 12th* **Counts toward CTE Course of Study* **(Maximum 10 students for safety purposes)* **Note that CTE courses operate as a professional work environment, so excellent attendance and a strong work ethic are expected.*	***Mr. Henson*** *This hands-on course introduces students to the exciting world of modern manufacturing through project-based learning and real-world applications. Students will explore key manufacturing processes including welding, CNC machining, CNC plasma cutting, metal bending, woodworking, and polymer fabrication. Using these tools and techniques, students will design and create functional products that connect to their local community and environment through place-based learning.* *In addition to building technical skills, students will gain valuable experience with industry standards in safety, precision, and production practices. Emphasis is also placed on developing durable workplace skills such as collaboration, problem-solving, communication, and adaptability—critical for success in any manufacturing career.* *By the end of the course, students will have a foundational understanding of how things are made, from concept to finished product, and be prepared for further study in advanced manufacturing, engineering, or skilled trades.*
12	**Independent Online Learning**	**Grade Levels:** *9th - 12th*	**Ms. Rethwill** *Intended for students in grades 9-12 seeking initial credit, credit recovery, or additional study time for college-level courses. Utilizing Edmentum, a comprehensive online learning platform, this class offers a flexible and self-paced approach to education.*

			• *High school students who are credit deficient will be given priority enrollment.* • *Students must be self-motivated and capable of managing their learning.* • *This course requires students to take responsibility for their progress and deadlines.* *Effective time management and organizational skills are essential. Students should be able to prioritize tasks, set goals, and track their progress independently. While independence is key, students will have access to guidance and support from the course facilitator. Regular check-ins and progress monitoring ensure students stay on track and achieve their academic goals*
13	**High School Skills Development**		***Mr Unti*** *Students are provided small class support to complete assignments from regular classes. This course provides both the extra time and direct support to succeed in other classes during the day. Particular focus is placed on graduation required core classes (Pass/Fail).*

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