

Electives Course Catalog

7th Grade

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Dear Luke Families,

It is that time of year again! Students going into the 5th-8th grade for the 2023-2024 school year will be getting to select their elective courses for specials. This opportunity allows students to select from a variety of special area class choices. Students will be able to select their special area courses based on their personal interests.

Attached to this letter you will find the following:

FAQ's Sheet

List of elective course options and descriptions

Elective Preference Form and Agreement

Our electives will run on a quarterly system, aligned with scheduled school quarters. Students will be allowed to choose and attend 2 different electives each quarter for a total of 8 courses for the year. The students will be required to include in their schedule one section of each of the following: iExplore, PE, Art and Music (Band/ Music). All courses offered run the length of one quarter, with the exception of Band which is a full-year course.

Students have attended an informational assembly in which the Special Area teachers discussed the various course options and spoke about the signup process. Please take the time to read through this packet with your child and discuss which elective courses they would like to choose. Use the elective preference form to rank the courses. Students are asked to rank the choices each quarter with the understanding that the school will do their best to see that they receive their top choices. Once this form is completed, please make sure to sign the bottom of the form acknowledging your child's choices. Students will then bring this form back to class on/by **March 23, 2023**. Students will then use this hard copy form to electronically sign up for classes.

Please understand that due to the way scheduling works, schedules will NOT be changed after the signup process. Students that do not have their forms signed and turned in on time will not be able to sign up until their form is turned in. Students who do not turn signed forms in will be placed in courses. Courses will be assigned on a first come first served basis after the first day of sign-ups. Students are not guaranteed to get placed in all of their first choices.

We are extremely excited to offer electives to our middle schoolers and allow them the opportunity to have some choice in their academic path. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,
Kara Sehr

Elective FAQ's

What grade levels get to participate?

Electives will take place in 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade students.

Does this replace my special time?

Yes. Instead of having to participate in all Specials classes, the special teachers are offering more personalized classes and students will get to choose which courses they attend.

Who is teaching the classes?

Special Area Teachers- PE, Music, Art, Band, iExplore Lab

What if I still want to go to every special?

Students get to choose 8 specials. When signing up for classes students can choose one from every subject area if they choose. Students are required to have a minimum of one section of iExplore, PE, Music and Art.

What does it mean by Rotation A and Rotation B?

Each quarter you will get to attend two different electives. One elective will be held on Tuesday and Thursdays (Rotation A), the other elective will be held on Wednesdays and Fridays (Rotation B). Mondays will alternate between A and B days.

What if I want to take a class more than once?

Each class is only offered once with the exception of Band. Band is a year-round course. You can take various classes in the same discipline area (art, music, PE, etc.).

Can I take Band all year?

Yes. These are performance-based classes. If you choose to participate in band you will be placed in the course for the entire year. You will still be able to participate in 4 other courses throughout the year.

Why didn't I get all of my choices?

We will do our best to schedule you into all your choices. Reasons for not getting your selections will more than likely be due to scheduling conflicts and when courses are offered or the possibility of a course filling up. If this is the case we will try to offer that same course again so more students can take that course. We have you ranking your courses each quarter, for each rotation Rotation A and B, our goal is to place you in your top choices.

When will I know what my classes are?

You will get your courses when you get your class schedule at the beginning of the school year.

Will I be able to change my schedule later?

There will be NO changing of the schedule once the sign-up process has been completed. So please really take time to make your decision and talk about it together.

Can I take all courses in the same discipline?

No. You will be required to at least have one iExplore course, one PE course, one Music and one Art course. Music can be either band or a music course.

Is there a cost?

Special's courses do not have a cost with the exception of band. Band students will need to provide their own instruments, either through ownership or rental. This will be discussed in the first week of school. Choir and band may have a required uniform for performances as well.

7th Grade Course Descriptions

General Music Course Descriptions

Choir

This course is designed to focus on singing as a group. Students will focus on learning different types of choral music, sight-reading, correct singing techniques, and performance etiquette. There will be evening performances and possible field trips as part of this course along with a required choral uniform. Further information will go home on the first day of class in the syllabus.

Composition and Songwriting

Come learn how songs are written and get a chance to express yourself through your own songwriting! Students will learn how words can go from simple sentences to become moving song lyrics. Students will use rhythmic skills to explore beginning song composition. Some will be group instrumental experiments, others will be independent works and working on lyric writing skills.

Music PBL

Engage in Project-Based-Learning using a variety of musical skills. Some projects are performances, some are presentations, some are games, and others are artifacts. You get to choose the project and the people you work with! Some can even be done on your own! Learning is student-directed and self-paced, with support from your teacher.

Piano 1&2

Students will build skills pertaining to playing the piano. This class works well for both types of students, those who have never played piano before and those with more experience. The nature of this class allows students to work at their own pace. Each class member will have access to a piano and a set of headphones, which allows students to either take their time or move more quickly through the curriculum, depending on their needs. Students will advance their music theory knowledge pertaining to this instrument and be required to learn selected material for a performance grade. Students will also focus on musicality, sight-reading, and performance skills.

Ukulele

Students will learn the basic fundamentals of how to play the ukulele. Students will learn music theory pertaining to this instrument and be required to learn selected material for a performance grade. Students will learn how to read tabs, label the strings and frets, count, use correct fingering, and play chords.

STEAM Music

This music course is a great course for students interested in STEAM. Students will collaborate to work on various music projects that include Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. STEAM lessons incorporate a cross-disciplinary approach and integrate the engineering design process to solve complex problems. Student teamwork and creativity will play an important role.

Band Course Description

Band

This course is designed to provide students with an enriching and diverse instrumental music education by performing music of various genres and time periods. The class will perform concerts during the semester to demonstrate their learning of such music. The daily objective of the course is to foster and promote music growth through the playing of an instrument by the student, at an appropriate level of difficulty. As the band works as a team, group effort and cooperation are necessary for a successful program. Band is a skilled effort in which each student is expected to show technical and musical growth throughout the course. Students are required to provide or rent their own instruments for this class. This course is a full year long. Band students are required to fill out the band contract found at the end of the handbook.

Art Course Descriptions

2D Multimedia

Students will create multi-media compositions with a variety of materials, paint, images, found objects, and ink painting. Techniques will include collage, monotype printing, drawing, painting, mixing, assemblage, cutting, and pasting, etc. Students will be challenged to create products that demonstrate their understanding of the elements of art and principles of design.

3D Multimedia

This art course deals with art in its 3-Dimensional form. A variety of mediums will be explored, which may include textiles, ceramics, paper mache', wire sculpture...and more! Students will participate in a wide range of experiences using additive or subtractive sculptural techniques designed to build artistic and creative confidence. An appreciation for art from various cultures will be developed. Projects are designed to teach thinking skills and to include useful Art experiences such as color theory so that no matter what vocation students pursue, the knowledge gained in this class will be of value to them.

Drawing

This course will introduce students to basic drawing, perspective and sketching techniques using various media to depict a variety of subjects. Students will create drawings that demonstrate their understanding of the elements of art and principles of design.

Fiber Arts

Class will focus on sewing, weaving, and braiding projects. We will work with yarn, cotton, fabric, burlap and other fibrous materials.

Painting

This course is a survey of various painted media on the traditional surfaces of canvas and paper. The class will offer an overview of the fundamental traditional painting methods. Students will be challenged to create paintings that demonstrate their understanding of the elements of art and principles of design.

World Cultures and Art

Students will explore the artwork and techniques of various countries throughout the world. They will then use this knowledge to try and create their own pieces of art that utilized the techniques of cultures they have studied.

iExplore Course Descriptions

3D Design

Students will become proficient using 3D Design technology to create and design an object using engineering design process.

Coding - Artificial Intelligence

Student will explore AI and its far-reaching societal impacts in our world. The course is designed around engaging activities and learning units that integrate foundational AI concepts and real-world applications with ethical design and responsible use, as students explore how these technologies can help solve problems and improve life for themselves and their communities.

STEM

Students will build on their background of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math to use the Engineering Design process to create a prototype that solves a given problem. In the past students have been stranded on deserted islands, trapped in the arctic, and pioneers during Westward Expansion. They've created shelters, bridges, towers, catapults, boats, and ziplines. This class is great for students who like to work with their hands, solve problems, and work with small groups.

Stop Motion

Explore the world of stop motion animation by creating characters, developing background scenery, and writing original stories to bring to life. Use Cloud Stop Motion to add voice overs, sound effects, and music to produce short films. Work collaboratively with a small production team to create a final movie for the film festival held in class each quarter.

Student 2 Student Ambassador

This is a yearlong course designed to develop and improve the leadership skills each person possesses. It is a student program that brings military and civilian students together to welcome new students, create a positive environment, support academic achievement and ease transitions. LEarn what leadership is all about by learning about your leadership style, developing goal setting skills, communication skills, decision making skills, teamwork and much more. Students will work with leadership projects within Luke Elementary, the Dysart Unified School District and Luke Community, including elementary student-mentoring for new students.

Physical Education Course Descriptions

Indoor Team Sports

The students will be participating in various indoor team sports. Examples of these sports include basketball, handball, volleyball, and hockey. These activities will focus on cooperation and team building activities. This course will take place indoors. Strategies and sportsmanship will be points of emphasis.

Lifelong Fitness and Cooperative Learning Activities

The students will be participating in various team activities. These games will focus on building offensive and defensive skills, throwing and catching drills, fitness conditioning. They will be incorporated through various games like, Capture the Flag, Hula Hut, Mat Ball, etc. These activities will focus on cooperation and team building activities. This course will take place both indoors and outdoors. Strategies and sportsmanship will be points of emphasis.

Lifetime Sports (Disc Sports, Golf, Kickball, Bowling, Spikeball)

Students will be participating in various lifetime sports. Examples of these sports include various disc sports, golf, kickball, bowling, and spike ball. We will focus on learning the rules and regulations for these various sports. These activities will focus on cooperation and team building activities. Strategies and sportsmanship will be points of emphasis.

Outdoor Team Sports

The students will be participating in various outdoor team sports. Examples of these sports include flag football, softball, baseball, soccer, field hockey, and lacrosse. These activities will focus on the needed fundamental skills for each sport as well as cooperation and team building activities. This course will take place outdoors. Strategies and sportsmanship will be points of emphasis.

Racquet Sports

Students will be participating in various racquet sports and team games. They will be learning the fundamental skills of racquet sports such as badminton, tennis, pickleball, ping-pong as well as being immersed in gameplay within the quarter. Students will also learn the safety skills that are needed when playing both sports. Finally, sportsmanship will be emphasized in daily activities.

Strategy Games

Games and activities in this class will focus on teamwork and communication. Students will engage in various games and activities in which their communication will guide their strategies while competing against each other and other teams.

7th Grade Elective Preference Form

This form will be used to select your choices electronically on Google Forms. *Remember one of your first choices must be in the subject area of PE, Art, Music and iExplore Lab.* Please return this form signed to your homeroom teacher.

Student Name (Last, First): _____

Current Homeroom Teacher: _____ Current Grade: 6th Grade

_____ My child will be signing up for band. I have read and attached the agreement form to this document. We will still complete the entire preference form understanding that band will take the place of 4 choices.

QUARTER 1

Rotation A

Please rank these class choices 1 to 5. 1 being your first choice and 4 being your last choice.

_____ Piano 1 (Music)

_____ 2D Multimedia (Art)

_____ Strategy Games (PE)

_____ Stop Motion (iExplore)

_____ Band (Music - Must select this choice for 2nd, 3rd and 4th Quarter)

Rotation B

Please rank these class choices 1 to 4. 1 being your first choice and 3 being your last choice.

_____ Choir (Music)

_____ Fiber Arts (Art)

_____ Outdoor Team Sports - Soccer, Volleyball, Football (PE)

_____ Student 2 Student Ambassador (iExplore - Must select this choice for 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Quarter)

QUARTER 2

Rotation A

Please rank these class choices 1 to 5. 1 being your first choice and 4 being your last choice.

_____ Ukulele (Music)

_____ Drawing (Art)

_____ Lifelong Fitness (PE)

_____ 3D Design (iExplore Lab)

_____ Band (Music - Must select this choice for 2nd, 3rd and 4th Quarter)

Rotation B

Please rank these class choices 1 to 4. 1 being your first choice and 3 being your last choice.

_____ Choir (Music)

_____ 3D Multimedia (Art)

_____ Indoor Team Sports - Basketball, Football, Volleyball (PE)

_____ Student 2 Student Ambassador (iExplore - Must select this choice for 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Quarter)

QUARTER 3

Rotation A

Please rank these class choices 1 to 3. 1 being your first choice and 4 being your last choice.

_____ Piano 2 (Music)

_____ Painting (Art)

_____ Lifetime Sports (PE)

_____ STEM (iExplore Lab)

_____ Band (Music - Must select this choice for 2nd, 3rd and 4th Quarter)

Rotation B

Please rank these class choices 1 to 4. 1 being your first choice and 3 being your last choice.

_____ Composition and Songwriting (Music)

_____ 2D Multimedia (Art)

_____ Indoor Team Sports - Football, Basketball, Volleyball (PE)

_____ Student 2 Student Ambassador (iExplore - Must select this choice for 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Quarter)

QUARTER 4

Rotation A

Please rank these class choices 1 to 5. 1 being your first choice and 4 being your last choice.

_____ STEAM Music (Music)

_____ 3D Multimedia (Art)

_____ Racquet Sports (PE)

_____ Coding (iExplore Lab)

_____ Band (Music - Must select this choice for 2nd, 3rd and 4th Quarter)

Rotation B

Please rank these class choices 1 to 4. 1 being your first choice and 3 being your last choice.

_____ Music PBL (Music)

_____ World Cultures and Art (Art)

_____ Outdoor Team Sports - Baseball, Basketball, Soccer (PE)

_____ Student 2 Student Ambassador (iExplore - Must select this choice for 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Quarter)

Please write in the following:

First Choice for your mandatory PE Course: _____

First Choice for your mandatory Art Course: _____

First Choice for your mandatory Music Course: _____

First Choice for your mandatory iExplore Course: _____

*These are student preferences. We will do our best to see that they get their top choices but can not guarantee it.

Parent and Student Agreement Form

I have read through this packet with my child and have selected the courses together. We understand that this form is a preference sheet and the school will do their best to make sure students get their elective preferences. We also understand that changes will not be made to the schedule once elective rosters have been finalized.

(Parent/Guardian Name, Printed) (Parent/Guardian Signature) (Date)

(Student Name, Printed) (Student Signature) (Date)

Dysart Unified School District #89

2023-2024 Band Contract

The purpose of this contract is to make sure that all band parents and students understand the year-long commitment that this course requires. Students who choose to enroll in band are choosing to take band for the entire school year and they will not be allowed to drop out of band. The success of a band program is built upon commitment and dedication. It requires cooperation with a conductor and a large team of musicians working together toward a common goal. And of course, it also requires practice at home, occasional after school rehearsals and performances and investment in and proper maintenance of an instrument. Learning to play an instrument takes a lot of time and effort so we need students to be committed to giving it their best try for the entire year. Band will occur during the student's specials time on A days and during Tier II on B days.

How do I sign up for band?

Band is an elective course offered for the entire year. It differs from the other elective courses, in that the course requires a longer time period to build proficiency. Students choosing band as an elective will still get to choose four other elective courses. All students will have the opportunity to take two elective courses a quarter for a total of eight courses over the year. Students who turn in the band agreement form will be placed in band as one of their elective courses for each of the four quarters. An example schedule for the first quarter may look like: Quarter 1 Day A- Band and Quarter 1 Day B- Soccer. Band students will still complete the elective preference sheet and will get placed in four other courses of their choice for the year. In order to sign up for band, attach this form completed with your Elective Preference Sheet. Your student will be placed into the appropriate band course.

BAND REQUIREMENTS

Students will be responsible for purchasing or renting their own instrument as well as necessary cleaning and maintenance supplies. Students will need to purchase the required method book as they will need to mark in it, as well as take it back and forth between school and home with their instrument. Students will be responsible for meeting the requirements of the band uniform/concert attire and attending concerts outside of the school day.

More information on Instrument Rental Night, required materials, and concerts will be shared during the first week of the new school year.

If you have further questions about the band program prior to choosing to sign up for band, you are encouraged to contact Mrs. Hofeling at reagan.hofeling@dysart.org

Band Participation Contract

(Please complete this form and turn in with Elective Student Preference Form)

Student's Name (Last Name, First Name) _____

Current Grade _____ Current Homeroom Teacher: _____

Student's Instrument Choice (if undecided, please just write undecided): _____

Please check one of the following:

- My student will rent an instrument.
- My student is currently renting an instrument.
- My student owns their own instrument.
- My student will need to borrow a school instrument. (very limited)

~Please complete this section, if your student has previous experience playing an instrument~

Name of Instrument _____ Number of Years Played _____

Please check the following if they pertain to your student's musical experience:

- My student has taken private lessons.
- My student still takes private lessons.
- My student has played in their school band/orchestra.
- My student is still playing in their school band/orchestra.

Band Participation Agreement:

Parent Agreement:

I have read and understand the information here concerning the year-long commitment to band at my school. I agree to comply with this information and hereby give my student permission to participate at his/her school. Students will not be able to withdraw during the course as it is a year-long course.

(Parent Name Print)

(Parent Signature)

(Date)

(Parent Email)

Student Agreement:

I have discussed with my parents and understand the commitment about band at my school. I agree to follow the rules and give my best effort. I understand that it will take time to learn to play a musical instrument and will try my hardest even when it gets challenging. I wish to sign up for band.

(Student Name Print)

(Student Signature)

(Date)