



# **PARKS**

## **JUNIOR HIGH**

### **COURSE OFFERINGS**

### **2023 - 2024**

D. RUSSELL PARKS JUNIOR HIGH  
*1710 Rosecrans Avenue*  
*Fullerton, California, 92833*  
*(714) 447-7785*

# **MISSION**

The Mission of D. Russell Parks Junior High School is to provide optimum intellectual, social, physical, and emotional growth for each student.

The learning environment will . . .

- Provide equal access to all areas of the curriculum for all students;
- Provide a variety of teaching strategies to address all learning styles;
- Provide a safe, orderly, and nurturing environment;
- Provide a physical education program for all students to develop strong and healthy bodies;
- Prepare students for a successful high school experience.

These goals will be accomplished by means of a coordinated school approach in which a commitment has been made to focus on reading and writing across the curriculum.

The staff and parents of D. Russell Parks Junior High School are committed to an educational program of excellence and growth for all students.

# HOMEWORK POLICY

Homework is an integral part of a student's school program and success. Homework supplements class work and it provides students the opportunity to practice foundational skills. Students may have homework each night in all major subjects. Those subjects include, but are not limited to, language arts, math, social science, and science. Homework can range from 50-120 minutes per night (Monday-Friday), and can impact a child's grade in the particular class (based on teacher).

Homework can come in many forms, and may resemble:

- Answering questions
- Reviewing daily notes
- Preparing for tests
- Working on a long-term class project
- Translations for a foreign language
- Designing a poster
- Reading a book for a book report
- Working on vocal or dance skills
- Studying or defining vocabulary words
- Solving math problems
- Practicing a musical instrument or skit

Consistent parental involvement is integral to the homework process and student success in school. Parks recommends checking PowerSchool regularly or setting up "notifications" in PowerSchool to review attendance, assignments, and scores. Parents are encouraged to check the student planner regularly and ask questions about the homework. Additionally, parents should check online resources periodically, such as the school website.

If a child suggests that he/she has "no homework," please ask your child to check with his/her study buddies or check certain teachers' websites. Oftentimes, teachers may not assign "homework," but they do prefer the child to practice concepts or read.

At the beginning of the year, students write phone numbers for their study buddies into their planners. Students should call study buddies to get missed assignments. Students should also revisit syllabi for "turn-in" and "make-up" policies for particular classes (dates/policies can vary by teacher).

# HONORS CLASS PLACEMENT

<u>Honors English Language Arts</u>	<u>Honors Social Science / History</u>	<u>Honors Mathematics</u>	<u>Honors Science</u>
FSD iReady ELA test scores	FSD iReady ELA test scores	FSD iReady Math Diagnostic Test scores	FSD iReady Math Diagnostic Test scores
Writing Benchmark	Writing Benchmark		FSD iReady ELA test scores
			Writing Benchmark

***\*Students who are GATE-Identified, but do not meet the Honors class placement qualification, will be “clustered” in a classroom with other GATE-Identified students and a GATE-trained teacher for ELA.***

The FSD Gifted And Talented Education (GATE) program provides an appropriate differentiated curriculum for gifted students within the Fullerton School District. GATE classes emphasize scholarly attributes, grade level themes, novelty, depth, and complexity. The core curriculum is accelerated in GATE classes for individuals and groups of learners appropriate to their needs and abilities.

## HONORS CLASSES

**HONORS SCIENCE 7<sup>TH</sup>/8<sup>TH</sup>:** While the content of our Honors courses is consistent with the NGSS standards of the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade general education courses, students will explore these concepts both in greater breadth and depth. In general, the academic pace and rigor will be greatly increased for honors level course work and include more opportunity for academic writing. These courses will also include reading complex non-fiction text in relation to the current field of study, as well as using mathematics for data calculations and constructing explanations.

**HONORS SOCIAL SCIENCE 7<sup>TH</sup>:** This course is designed to provide instruction in 7th grade level standards for History/Social Science with a focus on world history and geography with an examination of social, cultural, political, economical, and technological change during the period A.D. 500-1789.

**HONORS SOCIAL SCIENCE 8<sup>TH</sup>:** This course is designed to provide instruction in 8th grade level standards for History/Social Science with a focus on the major ideas, issues, and events preceding the founding of the nation from the framing of the United States Constitution to World War I.

**HONORS ENGLISH 7<sup>TH</sup>:** This course is designed to provide instruction for students at the advanced level in 7th grade ELA standards in listening, speaking, reading and writing.

**HONORS ENGLISH 8<sup>TH</sup>:** This course is designed to provide instruction for students at the advanced level in 8th grade ELA standards in listening, speaking, reading and writing.

**HONORS MATH 7<sup>TH</sup>:** This course is designed for students who have accelerated mathematics skills and progress beyond what is expected in the Math 7 class. This course differs from the Math 7 course in that it contains content from 8th grade. Instructional time should focus on four critical areas: (1) rational numbers

and exponents; (2) proportionality and linear relationships; (3) introduction to sampling inference; and (4) creating, comparing, and analyzing geometric figures.

**Language and Composition 7** Language and Composition 7 will prepare students to take the Advanced Placement Language & Composition English assessment. Language and Composition 7 will cover the first semester of an AP Language & Composition course.

**Language and Composition 8** Language and Composition 8 will prepare students to take the Advanced Placement Language & Composition English assessment. Language and Composition 8 will cover the second semester of an AP Language & Composition course.

## **REQUIRED SUBJECTS**

The following are the subjects required of all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students at Parks JHS.

### **LANGUAGE ARTS** Yearlong class for 7th & 8th grade students

**The Language Arts Program** is a two-year, literature/informational text based course of study. Students will have the opportunity to read, analyze, discuss, and write in various forms related to material read. Assignments are developed to strengthen higher-level thinking skills. Particular attention is given to developing good writing skills. Overall, language arts classes are heterogeneously grouped except the Honors language arts sections. (Eligibility to the Honors classes is for those who meet the requirements. GATE identification no longer means automatic Honor placement.)

**English Language Learners - ELL** - This course of study will deal with speaking, listening, reading and writing in English. Placement in the ELL classes is determined by the results of various tests including the English Language Proficiencies Assessments for California (ELPAC). When ready, as determined by a combination of test scores and teacher assessment, students may move up or transfer into regular classes.

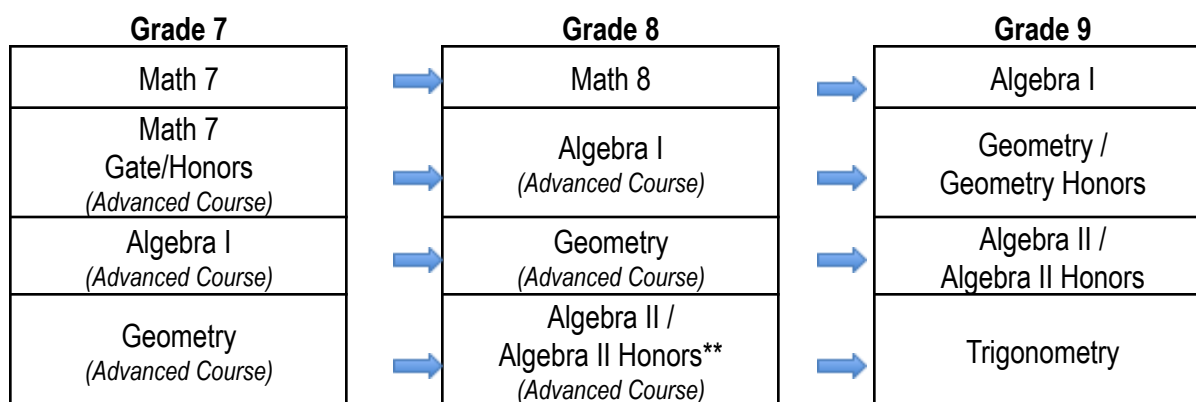
**Academic Pathways** - This course is designed to improve the literacy level of students who are reading below grade level. Students learn and practice techniques to improve their reading fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. Students are placed in Academic Pathways using multiple measures.

### **MATHEMATICS** Yearlong class for 7th & 8th grade students

The mathematics curriculum is based on the Common Core State Standards. The math classes are ability grouped. The local benchmark assessment and placement tests are used for initial placement, which is reviewed in the fall on the basis of teacher assessment. State assessments could be used for placement. Movement between levels during the school year is based on class performance and individual reevaluations. Student placement in high school is based on achievement at Parks and high school placement tests.

**Math Essentials** - This class is designed for students who are below grade level in mathematics. Students learn and practice techniques to improve their mathematical confidence, fluency, and calculations. Students are placed into Math Essentials using multiple measures.

### Math Course Sequence (General and Accelerated)



\*\*Student attends class through Fullerton Joint Union High School District

### **History/Social Science** Yearlong class for 7th & 8th grade students

Social Science classes are yearlong courses, which focus on the development of man as a social being from early civilization through modern times. All classes are heterogeneously grouped.

**Seventh Grade** students study world history and geography with an examination of social, cultural, and technological change during the period A.D. 500 - 1789. Units focus on the great civilizations that were developing concurrently over these years. Students can locate these cultures in time and in place, compare events that were developing concurrently in the world, and observe the transmission of ideas, beliefs, scientific developments, and economic trade throughout this important period of time. Students will be prepared to continue the study of world history in the 9th grade from 1789 to the present.

**Eighth Grade** students will use a text specified by the teacher to follow the development of the United States economically, politically and socially. The course of study will begin with a review of major ideas, issues and events preceding the founding of the nation. Students will concentrate on the critical events of the period - from the framing of the Constitution through the Age of Industrialization. Instruction will include specific areas such as map and graph interpretation, critical thinking and skills, which develop written expression in this course. Students will be prepared to continue the study of U.S. history in the 11th grade from the age of industrialization to the present.

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION** Yearlong class for 7th & 8th grade students

Physical education will stress personal growth in responsibility, sportsmanship and physical fitness. Activities will include instruction in the fundamental skills, rules and techniques of sports such as flag football, team handball, volleyball, Frisbee, track, and softball. Physical education classes are coed with placement in some sports based on skill level and experience. Students will participate in competitive team activities and track meets preparing them for the next level of sports competition and a lifetime of being active. 7<sup>th</sup> grade students will participate in state mandated Physical Fitness Testing in the spring.

## **SCIENCE** Yearlong class for 7th & 8th grade students

Each student is required to take one year of science in seventh grade and one year of science in eighth grade.

**7th Science** - Science 7 is a yearlong course covering the basic principles related to Life Science. The course is aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Hands on and lab based activities are a part of the curriculum.

**8th Science** - Science 8 is a yearlong course for 8th graders. The course is aligned with the California State Science Standards for Physical Science and emphasizes the areas of physics, chemistry and astronomy. The high school preparatory course includes further development of science process skills with a focus on critical thinking and problem solving. Lab activities with write-ups and projects are embedded within the course and reinforce the science concepts being studied.

## **HEALTH 7th Grade** 1 semester for 7<sup>th</sup> grade students

Parks Jr. High is very pleased to continue offering a Health Curriculum which covers some of the vital needs of students as they transition from the elementary to high school experience. This journey takes students through very important “life lessons” which are designed to keep them strong, safe, and healthy throughout their lifetime. Growth and development, caring for the human body, building human relationships, dealing with stress, and coping with the health problems found within our modern society are just a few topics that will be taught and discussed throughout this semester.

Park's comprehensive teen health course includes the following units of study:

- \*Personal Health and Hygiene   \*Skin and Skin Cancer   \*Body Systems
- \*Emotional Health   \*Stress and Suicide   \*Adolescent Development   \*Family Life
- \*Sex Education   \*Nutrition   \*Drug Use and Abuse   \*Accident Prevention   \*Emergency First Aid
- \*Exercise   \*Fitness   \*Health Careers

## **PATHfinder** 1 semester for 7<sup>th</sup> grade students

The purpose of Parks' PATHfinder Class is to discover and apply personal talents, strengths and skills to life skills, academic success (i.e. Internet research, analytical skills, and oral communications), and design thinking processes (i.e. social entrepreneurship), all while leading students into awareness and understanding of high school, college and career models. Through personal activities and teamwork projects, students will have opportunities to voice their personal thinking processes while attending to the at-large thinking of their team, plus students will have time to participate in choice activities that benefit them. Additionally, PATHfinder provides students with the agency to conduct in-depth online research, build strong peer relationships and strengthen oral, interpersonal communication skills with peers, adults and community members.

# ELECTIVE COURSES

The purpose of the elective program in the junior high school is to provide the student with an opportunity to explore his/her talents and interests. In addition to the required subjects, the student must choose the number of electives needed to complete the program consisting of seven periods daily.

The electives program for the seventh and eighth graders should be carefully planned to provide the opportunity for study in several areas. All courses are open to both boys and girls. Elective classes are one-semester courses unless otherwise indicated.

Elective classes are offered for your consideration. However, if student demand and resources are not sufficient, some electives may not be offered.

## FINE ARTS – ART

### **ART 1** 1 semester for 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade students

Art 1 is a beginning to intermediate level course that emphasizes 2D design concepts and terminology, as well as technical skills in drawing, color theory, and mixed media artwork. Students will document their progress in a digital portfolio, with photographs and written reflections about their work. Students will also discuss philosophies, and historical traditions in art. The suggested donation for this course is \$10. (*This course is aligned with the California Visual Arts Standards, and the National Core Arts Standards.*)

### **ART 2** 1 semester for 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade students

#### **Prerequisite: “B” or better in Art 1 or the equivalent and teacher approval**

Art 2 is a course for serious art students. Emphasis is on the creative process, continued growth with materials and techniques, and the “business” of being an artist. Students will work on assigned projects, and self directed work. They will learn to explore themes in art, work in series, and create their own promotional materials. Students will continue to document their progress in their digital portfolio. Students will have opportunities to participate in group shows, contests, and exhibit work in the community. The suggested donation for this course is \$20. (This course is aligned with the California Visual Arts Standards, and the National Core Arts Standards.)

### **ART 3** 1 semester for 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade students

#### **Prerequisite: “B” or better in Art 2, or “B” or better in Art 1 with teacher approval**

Art 3 is a continuation of Art 2. Emphasis is on exploration, personal style, and the “business” of being an artist.. Returning students will develop bodies of work around chosen themes. New students will be partnered with a student mentor who will help them begin the creative process. Students will have opportunities to participate in group shows, contests, and exhibit work in the community. The suggested donation for this course is \$20. ( This course is aligned with the California Visual Arts Standards, and the National Core Arts Standards.)



# WORLD LANGUAGES

## **SPANISH SURVEY** 1 semester for 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade students

Spanish Survey is a semester-long course. This course is taught using Comprehensible Input (CI). The focus will be primarily on high frequency structures. Students will acquire the Spanish language by listening and reading in order to support their eventual output of writing and speaking.

**If 7<sup>th</sup> grade students are interested in continuing on with Spanish 1A for the second semester and the two-year track, they must seek teacher approval and maintain at least a “B” average.**

## **SPANISH 1A** Yearlong class 7th grade students only

**Prerequisite: For incoming 7<sup>th</sup> graders: proficient on ELA Benchmarks.**

Spanish 1A is a yearlong course and the first year of a 2 year commitment. The focus will be primarily on high frequency structures and cultural traditions in Spanish-speaking countries. Students will acquire the Spanish language by listening and reading in order to support their eventual output of writing and speaking. By the end of this course, students will have completed the first half of Spanish 1.

**\*Students must maintain a “B” average at the end of Semester 1 and 2 in order to continue in the two-year track.**

## **SPANISH 1B** Yearlong class 8th grade students only

Spanish 1B is the second year of the 2 year commitment and it is a yearlong course. Students will continue to acquire the Spanish language via listening and reading activities in order to support their eventual output of writing and speaking. Students will learn about cultural traditions in Spanish-speaking and participate in hands-on activities. By the end of the year, students will have read a short novel in Spanish. At the completion of Spanish 1B, students will have completed Spanish 1 and may be eligible for Spanish 2 at the high school level.

**\*Students must maintain a “B” average at the end of Semester 1 in order to continue in the two-year track.**

## **Korean 1** Yearlong class 7th/8th grade students

This is a yearlong course for anyone who wants to learn the basics of Korean and has no experience learning the language. By the end of the year, students will be able to know how to read and write simple words and phrases, give a brief self-introduction about themselves, ask and answer simple questions in present, past, and future tenses, and understand the basic aspects of Korea’s traditional and contemporary culture, and some major events in Korea’s history.

## **Korean 1 Heritage** Yearlong class 7th/8th grade students

### **Requires teacher approval**

This is a yearlong course for anyone who already speaks some Korean with family at home. By the end of the year, students will be able to know how to read and write basic sentences with generally accurate spelling, understand how and when to use honorifics, ask and answer questions in present, past, and future tenses with complex clauses, and recognize notable events and figures in Korea's history and Korean American society.

## **CULINARY ARTS**

### **CULINARY ARTS 1** semester for 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade students

This course is a learning experience, which helps students to work cooperatively in the classroom and in cooking labs. Students develop skills in kitchen safety and sanitation, acquire knowledge of the nutrients and good nutrition practices, along with the use of proper kitchen equipment. Students prepare simple breakfasts, lunches, snacks and one-dish meals and are responsible for specific jobs within the kitchen. Students are introduced to a variety of cooking methods and terminology. Curriculum content is emphasized in each unit of study. Voluntary donations are encouraged to offset the food cost and to enhance the cooking experience.

### **CULINARY ARTS 2** Yearlong class 8th grade students only

#### **Prerequisite: "B" or better in Culinary 1 and teacher approval.**

Culinary 2 is an advanced yearlong foods course. The course is for students who have successfully completed Culinary 1 with a "B" or higher grade and satisfactory citizenship. The content covers proper table setting, food photography, cooking across the United States, baking challenges, international cooking and more. Students participate in cooking labs and develop a variety of advanced meal preparation and service skills. Voluntary donations are encouraged to offset the food cost and to enhance the cooking experience.

## **SCIENCE**

### **FORENSICS 1 semester for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students**

**Prerequisite: 8<sup>th</sup> graders only; "B" or better in 7<sup>th</sup> grade science and ELA; no N's or U's.**

Forensics is a semester lab-based course exploring the science behind crime scene investigations. Students build their observation and deductive reasoning skills through investigation and analysis. Topics include handwriting analysis, fingerprints, chromatography, and blood and spatter patterns. Students apply their learning to a variety of mysteries and a mock crime scene.

### **STEM X- ROBOTICS 1 semester for 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade students**

This is a semester-long course for 7th and 8th grade students. STEM VEX Robotics is a technology program that emphasizes real life STEM applications. VEX robotics and ROBOTC programming will be the vehicle in which students will have the chance to connect research, engineering design process, math, and ELA standards to practical applications. The emphasis of math practices and ELA standards will help promote the CCSS as well as engage students into real life application

### **STEM V- Applied Coding 1 semester for 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade students**

This is a semester-long course for 7th and 8th grade students. Students will explore the fundamentals of two coding languages. Using Apple Swift and Code.org, students will learn concepts such as debugging, functions, for loops, while loops, conditional code and more. Students will also go through the four phases of the design cycle to design and prototype their own app.

### **STEM VI- Advanced Applied Coding Yearlong class for 7th & 8th grade students**

This is a yearlong class for 7th and 8th grade students. This advanced coding class provides students the opportunity to further develop their skills in Python. Students will continue to focus on solving real world problems by leveraging personal creativity and innovation. Students taking the course have the option of taking the Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles exam and participate in the Congressional APP Challenge, which focuses on App development.

## **MEDIA ARTS**

### **DIGITAL DESIGN I 1 semester for 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade**

Students will develop art and technological skills needed to create visual images digitally and graphically. Students will learn to use DSLR cameras to take various styles of photography and apply composition strategies. Students will use the industry-preferred Adobe Creative Cloud software to work with their photos and create digital art through Adobe Lightroom & Photoshop. Students will be introduced to vector-graphics through layout design on Adobe Illustrator, and then if time permits, continue their art creations through 2-D Animation in Adobe Animate. Students will learn basic art concepts such as the Elements of Art, Color Theory and the Principles of Design and of Animation. Students will compile an online portfolio of their work and have opportunities to show their work.

## **Digital Design II** 1 semester for 7th/8th grade students (may repeat)

**Prerequisite: "B" in Digital Design I and teacher approval**

Digital Design II is a course for advanced students who are passionate about one or more areas of digital media arts. Students will continue exploration and growth in their preferred area while expanding their skills within the Adobe Creative Cloud suite of software and peripherals, exploring self-choice themes and independence within the creative process. Students will continue to build their digital portfolio with focus on presentation and participation in art shows and festivals as well as career specific application of media arts skills across various industries. This course may be repeated.

## **VIDEO PRODUCTION** 1 semester for 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade

This is an introductory course that will cover the fundamental concepts and technical skills necessary to produce short video compositions independently and within a group, in various genres. Students will learn pre-production steps from idea development to storyboarding and basic script writing. Students will develop compositional shooting techniques using a HD camcorder while working both behind and in front of the camera. Students will be introduced to stop motion animation techniques via iPad apps and develop post-editing skills through the Apple suite of software with access to Adobe Creative Cloud software. Students will tackle media ethics and how to address copyright and fair laws in their productions. Students will maintain an online portfolio of their projects and have opportunities to submit to festivals and competitions.

# **PERFORMING ARTS-MUSIC/DANCE**

## **BEGINNING/INTERMEDIATE BAND** Yearlong class for 7th & 8th grade students

**No experience necessary – open to all students.**

This is a great class to learn a new instrument, make great new friends and have tons of fun! The instruments that you can learn to play include tuba, trombone, French horn, baritone, trumpet, clarinet, flute, saxophone or percussion. Throughout the year we will participate in many field trips, concerts and special events. Some of the upcoming events include winter, spring, and end of the year Pops concert, quarterly music parties, and Disneyland! Many studies show that participation in a school music program during school hours enhances grades in all subject areas and improves communication and socialization. Students in Band become a family and are very close. We have tons of fun in this class!

## **ADVANCED BAND** Yearlong class for 7th & 8th grade students

**Prerequisite: Completion of Beginning Band, or two years experience, or Instructor approval or audition required. Ability to play in the keys of C, Bb, Eb, F, & G major.**

This powerful group works primarily from concert and contemporary pieces of music. Throughout the year, we will participate in many field trips, concerts, and special events. Some of the upcoming events include winter, spring, and end-of-the-year concerts, quarterly Music parties, and Disneyland! We are very excited about performing in our Disneyland workshops toward the end of the year. Plus, students in Advanced Band and Symphony Orchestra combine for one piece in each concert to create a full symphony orchestra,

a very unique experience and extremely rare for junior high. We provide many of the larger instruments and percussion equipment. Many studies show that participation in a school music program during school hours enhances grades in all subject areas and improves communication and socialization. Students in Band become a family and are very close. We have tons of fun in this class!

### **SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Yearlong class for 7th & 8th grade students**

**Prerequisite: 2+ years of experience. Audition or instructor's approval required. String players only, including violin, viola, cello, bass, and harp. Must be able to play beyond 1st position and in the keys of C, G, F D and A Major.**

One of Orange County's very few full symphony orchestras at this level, our group studies and performs works ranging from standard classical repertoire to contemporary concerts both on and off campus. Throughout the year, we will participate in many field trips, concerts, and special events. Some of the upcoming events include winter, spring, and end-of-the-year concerts, quarterly Music parties, and Disneyland! We are very excited about performing in our Disneyland workshops toward the end of the year. Plus, students in Advanced Band and Symphony Orchestra combine for one piece in each concert to create a full symphony orchestra, a very unique experience and extremely rare for junior high. Many studies show that participation in a school music program during school hours enhances grades in all subject areas and improves communication and socialization. Students in Orchestra become a family and are very close. We have tons of fun in this class!

### **ORCHESTRA PIANO ACCOMPANIST 1 or 2 semesters for 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade students**

Qualifications include an advanced knowledge of the piano, willingness to prepare and practice several pieces, and some ability to sight-read. Interested students must set up an audition with Ms. Bowman.

### **CHOIR 1 Yearlong class for 7th & 8th grade students**

This performance-based class is for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students with some or no previous singing experience. Students will sing a variety of music in different styles throughout the year and create a strong bond with their classmates. They will perform in about three different concert settings during the school year, including a show choir performance focusing on musical theater with choreography and costumes. Students will also have the opportunity to attend a field trip to see a musical theater performance.

### **CHOIR 2 Yearlong class for 7th & 8th grade students**

**Prerequisite: Audition and teacher approval**

This performance-based class is an auditioned group for experienced singers. Instructor approval is required. Auditions will be held online and in person for the 2023-2024 school year. Students will learn a variety of music throughout the year and create a strong bond with their classmates. They will perform in multiple concerts during the school year. One performance will focus on show choir music with choreography and costumes. They will have the opportunity to perform at a choral festival on a field trip and go see a musical theater performance off campus. An exciting opportunity is participating in Disneyland's Performing Arts Vocal Workshop backstage at a Disney Park! Students will record music in one of the Disney studios and then get to spend the day at Disneyland or California Adventure. Contact Mrs. Martinez for audition information.

### **CHOIR PIANO ACCOMPANIST** 1 or 2 semesters for 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade students

Piano accompanists need to have previous experience and music theory knowledge. Qualifications include piano training, willingness to prepare and practice choral music, and sight-reading abilities. Students will have performance opportunities throughout the year. They will also get to go on field trips with the choir students to Disneyland's Performing Arts Vocal Workshop and to see a musical theater production. Interested students should contact Mrs. Martinez for an audition.

### **DANCE** 1 semester for 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade students

This semester-long course will focus on dance techniques and styles in a variety of dance genres. No experience is needed. Class activities will include daily warm-ups, across-the-floor skills, dance combinations in multiple styles, and student-based choreography. Students will learn jazz, lyrical, and hip-hop choreography. More experienced dancers will be student leaders and choreographers. Contact Mrs. Martinez if you are interested in being a dance leader.

## **ADDITIONAL ELECTIVES**

### **PHYSICAL CONDITIONING** 1 semester for 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade students

Physical Conditioning class is designed to empower students to achieve high levels of physical fitness through individual and group exercise as they learn and implement essential components of a physically fit lifestyle. Students will have the privilege of incorporating stability balls, medicine balls, jump ropes, resistance bands, barbells and barbell plates, lightweight dumbbells, kettlebells, suspension straps, pull-up bars, benches, battle ropes, spin bikes, agility ladders, hurdles, plyometric boxes, and punching bags into exercise routines. In addition, students will receive direct instruction in specific movements and activities that promote cardiovascular fitness, muscle strength and endurance, flexibility, quickness and agility, and overall physical wellness. This class is designed for those students who are serious athletes as well as those who are new to fitness and exercise.

**PLEASE NOTE:** 8<sup>th</sup> graders who would like to repeat this course must acquire teacher's approval.

### **JOURNALISM** 1 semester for 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade students

#### **Prerequisite: General interest in writing**

Journalism is a semester-long elective course for both 7th and 8th grade students. The journalism class is dedicated to the craft of writing and documenting news for Parks Junior High School. Students are responsible for the production of our online student newspaper, the *Parks Panther Press*

**YEARBOOK** Yearlong class for 8th grade students

**Prerequisite: Application approved by Mr. Beaver.**

Yearbook Staff focuses on the production of the school's yearbook. Emphasis is on photojournalism including: Layout and design, photography, writing, and ethical reporting. Students will use DSLR cameras, web based design software, and other applications including Photoshop. It is expected that yearbook staff members can occasionally attend after school events, and provide coverage of those events, and that they can meet production deadlines. Applications will be available in the office during the 4th quarter of the preceding school year.

**LEADERSHIP** 2<sup>nd</sup> semester 7<sup>th</sup> grade AND 8<sup>th</sup> grade yearlong course

Students have the opportunity to develop their effectiveness as a leader throughout this course. All activities are designed to enhance a student's communication skill, managerial skills, human relations skill, and overall self- awareness. Students will be involved in instrumental school planning, related activities such as spirit days, fundraising, and school beautification. It is the purpose of this class to provide students with opportunities to develop their own style and interpretation of *leadership*. **In order to be in this class, there is a comprehensive application and interview process. IF YOU CHOOSE 2 yearlong ELECTIVES, YOU ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THIS CLASS.**