

McFarland School District  
 Indian Mound Middle School  
**Eighth Grade Course Selection Form: 2018-19 school year**

**Due to Mrs. Sutherland or Mrs. Burke by Friday, February 16, 2018**

**Student name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date returned** \_\_\_\_\_

(for office use only)

All eighth grade students take the following classes

- Mathematics (84 minutes)
- Physical Education (41 minutes every other day)
- Reading/Language Arts (84 minutes)
- Science (41 minutes)
- Social Studies (41 minutes)

- Related Arts: Everyday for a quarter for 41 minutes
- + Academic and Career Planning
  - + Art
  - + Family and Consumer Sciences
  - + Technology and Engineering

In addition to the required classes, one period each day and one period every other day are available for elective courses. To complete your schedule, you must choose courses to equal a total of 1.5 from the following list of electives. The only exception to this guideline is that with approval from all of the music teachers involved, students may take two elective music courses (band, choir, or orchestra) and a world language (French or Spanish) for a total of 2.0. We anticipate that all students will be scheduled for the elective courses they choose; however, enrollment in elective classes may be limited due to class sizes and staff availability. If we do limit enrollment in an elective, students will be selected randomly.

These are the possible elective courses and their credit values. If you want to know more about a course, please refer to the course descriptions on the back of this page.

<i>Possible Elective Courses</i>	<i>Credit Value</i>
Band	.5
Choir	.5
Orchestra	.5
Coding Generation (C-Gen)	.5
French (meets every day - prerequisite: must have taken 7 <sup>th</sup> gr. French)	1.0
Spanish (meets every day - prerequisite: must have taken 7 <sup>th</sup> gr. Spanish)	1.0
S.E.T. (Student Extensions Time)	.5

List your choices for electives in the Student Elective Choices column. You may choose either two or three courses as long as the total credit value is 1.5.

<i>Student Elective Choices</i>	<i>Credit Value</i>
<b>TOTAL (must equal 1.5)</b>	

**Parent/Guardian signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

## Course Descriptions

**Band:** 8<sup>th</sup> grade band is a continuation of student's progress studying a musical instrument. The fundamentals of playing instruments are still emphasized and assessed, but a stronger emphasis is placed on performance and musicianship. Students are expected to participate in large ensemble rehearsals, small group and individual instruction, marching band, all formal concerts, and the Local Solo Festival at IMMS. The course meets every other day. Please note that students may enroll in band and other musical classes, along with other electives (with music teacher approval).

**Choir:** Choir is open to all students who want to learn more about music by singing together. The choir meets every other day and does not require an audition. Students will sing in either the "Cambiata Choir" for changing voices or the "Treble Choir". Students are expected to sing in regular rehearsals, perform in 3 formal concerts throughout the year as well as a Local Solo and Ensemble performance where students get the opportunity to sing in small groups. There are optional opportunities for solo and small group experience on various school performances/trips and the District Solo and Ensemble Festival. Students may enroll in choir and other musical classes, along with other electives (with music teacher approval).

**Orchestra:** 8th grade orchestra is a continuation of learning to play the violin, viola, cello or string bass. Students will further develop their skills by participating in class, attending all scheduled concerts, participating in local solo and ensemble festival, and striving to advance their instrumental techniques. Orchestra meets every other day. Students may also participate in our District solo and ensemble festival. Students may enroll in band and orchestra, along with other electives (with band/orchestra teacher approval).

**Coding Generation(C-Gen):** This technology class is an updated version of E-gen. The course provides students with the introductory knowledge, experience, and practice necessary to successfully utilize various technologies. The class meets every other day for the entire school year. The class has recently been revised to include a greater emphasis on coding so students improve their digital literacy and become a creator of the internet, not just a consumer. Students will develop creative problem solving, critical thinking, if/then logical-linear thinking, visualization, and perseverance. Other key units and projects include: on-line learning to support individual learning and contribute to the learning of others, digital citizenship, communicating and collaborating with peers or experts, website design, slide presentations, and much more.

**French 8:** This course is a continuation of level 1 French. Pre-requisite: French-7. Students who earned a grade below a C in their 7th grade French class must have the recommendation of their French teacher in order to select this course. French-8 meets every day for the entire school year. Successful completion of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade French is the equivalent of High School level 1 French, resulting in students being able to take level 2 French their freshman year. Students who wish to eventually take French 5 in the high school must successfully complete French in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Students do not receive high school credit for completing French 1 at IMMS.

**Spanish 8:** This course is a continuation of level 1 Spanish (as started in seventh grade). Pre-requisite: Spanish 7. Students who earned a grade below a C in their 7th grade Spanish class must have the recommendation of their Spanish teacher in order to select this course. Spanish 8 meets every day for the entire school year. Successful completion of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Spanish is the equivalent of High School level 1 Spanish, resulting in students being able to take level 2 Spanish their freshman year. Students who wish to eventually take Spanish 5 in the high school must successfully complete Spanish in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Students do not receive high school credit for completing Spanish 1 at IMMS.

**S.E.T. (Student Extensions Time):** This course resembles a guided study. Students selecting this course will work in small groups and individually with a variety of staff members, including their math, reading/language arts, social studies, and science teachers. Depending upon student needs, students will receive additional practice in core skill areas, receive assistance with course work, participate in groups related to social and emotional needs, explore content in greater depth including receiving assistance from the gifted and talented program, and even tutor other students. Teachers may also pre-teach and re-teach important content and skills.