

Pine Hollow Middle School

Elective Course Selection Sheet for Rising 8th Graders (2026-27)



Name: _____ Student ID: _____

Math Class for 8th Grade (CIRCLE ONE): Math 8 OR NC Math 1

All eighth graders will take English/Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and Healthful Living (students will automatically be registered for these courses). In addition, they will take two (2) semester-long electives OR one (1) year-long elective.

Unlike classes like ELA and math, elective courses are not required, but instead are optional courses that may be of interest to your child. Each middle school offers unique elective courses that your child can choose to take. The elective courses listed below are options for 8th grade students at Pine Hollow.

In terms of choosing electives for next year, your child will have two (2) options:

- OPTION 1:** Choose yearlong Level III Band, Level III Chorus, Spanish I (MS for HS Credit), or Visual Composition II elective offering OR
- OPTION 2:** Choose four (4) electives of interest (if it is a paired course, you will simply choose the first course that is listed).

ELECTIVE OPTION 1 (Yearlong Options)

- _____ Level III Band **see note below regarding graduation requirement this course fulfills*
- _____ Level III Chorus - Yearlong **see note below regarding graduation requirement this course fulfills*
- _____ Spanish I (MS for HS Credit) (*prerequisite: completion of Spanish Beginning 1 Year*)
- _____ Visual Composition II - Yearlong **see note below regarding graduation requirement this course fulfills*

If you do not select Level III Band, Level III Chorus, Spanish I, or Visual Composition II as your year-long elective choice, please choose four (4) electives below that you would be interested in taking during the 2026-27 school year. You will end up being assigned two (2).

ELECTIVE OPTION 2 (Semester Options)

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| _____ Computer Science Discoveries II AND Digital Literacy | _____ Exploring Nutrition and Wellness AND Exploring Apparel and Interior Design |
| _____ CSIT-CE 3D, Games & Data Science AND Digital Literacy | _____ Level III Chorus - Semester <i>*see note below regarding graduation requirement this course fulfills</i> |
| _____ Engr: Technological Systems I AND Engr: Technological Systems II | _____ Visual Composition II - Semester <i>*see note below regarding graduation requirement this course fulfills</i> |

**** Every student must complete ONE arts credit (music, visual arts, theatre arts, dance) between Grades 6 and 12 in order to graduate from high school, beginning with those students entering 6th Grade in 2022. Courses denoted with an asterisk (*) above will fulfill this requirement for students.***

Elective Course Descriptions for 8th Grade

Computer Science Discoveries II: Code program animations, interactive art, and games in the Game Lab. Program various apps, from simple shapes up to sophisticated sprite-base games, using multiple programming concepts. Enhance problem-solving abilities by analyzing the needs of others and develop programs to meet them. Explore the knowledge and skills for careers in the Computer Science, IT, and Technology pathways. ***this is a 9-week course that is paired with Digital Literacy***

CSIT-CE 3D, Games & Data Science: Explore the world of digital creativity and technology through 3D modeling, animation, game design, and data science. Learn how art and technology come together to bring ideas to life—whether by designing 3D models, building engaging games, or uncovering insights through data. Develop an understanding of design principles, color theory, and the creative process, while also learning how to collect, analyze, and visualize data to make informed decisions. Engage in hands-on activities to discover career pathways in animation, gaming, computer science, and technology, and learn about courses, credentials, and certifications that prepare you for future success. ***this is a 9-week course that is paired with Digital Literacy***

Engr: Technological Systems I: Design and engineer systems to accomplish specific goals or processes. Design, build, and document prototypes for various engineering design challenges. Explore the knowledge and skills for careers in the Computer Science, IT, and Technology pathways. ***this is a 9-week course that is paired with Engr: Technological Systems II***

Engr: Technological Systems II: Dissect objects to locate and troubleshoot potential sources of failure. Design, build, and document prototypes for various engineering design challenges. Explore the knowledge and skills for careers in the Computer Science, IT, and Technology pathways. ***this is a 9-week course that is paired with Engr: Technological Systems I***

Exploring Apparel and Interior Design: Examine the field of apparel by exploring the elements of design, basic clothing construction, and the impact of marketing on clothing choices. Characterize the basics of interior design, including the basic principles of design. Practice managing living spaces and learn how sustainable design impacts housing. Gain the knowledge and skills for careers in apparel, textile, and interior design. ***this is a 9-week course that is paired with Exploring Nutrition and Wellness***

Exploring Nutrition and Wellness: Gain an understanding of the impact of choices on wellness by examining the current USDA Food Guidelines. Practice nutritious meal planning and preparation. Explore basic kitchen skills, safety needs, and sanitation. Gain the knowledge and skills for careers in hospitality and tourism or human services. ***this is a 9-week course that is paired with Exploring Apparel and Interior Design***

Level III Band: Technical drills, scale studies, rhythm studies, and sight-reading exercises are used to advance the student's skills, knowledge, and reading ability in music. A wide variety of band literature is studied to give the students experience in various musical styles. Students should anticipate some after-school practices and evening performances. The curriculum for Level III Band is a continuation of Level II Band, or for students who enter middle school with previous experience.

Level III Chorus - Semester or Yearlong: Students will continue to apply correct singing technique, study vocal health issues and various elements of musical expression through developmentally appropriate and historic vocal literature. Students will use traditional notation in order to learn music, and to respond correctly to conductors' gestures both in rehearsal and public performance. Students in this class may be asked to represent the school in public performances and should anticipate some after-school practices and evening performances.

Spanish I (MS for HS Credit): This course completes the high school Level I credit course. Students should have taken the Beginning and Intermediate levels prior to enrolling in this course. In this course, students will continue to learn the foundations of the language's vocabulary and structures in order to communicate in simple, memorized, sentences related to basic necessary skills in the target language. Classes are conducted primarily in the target language with a strong focus on comprehensible input at a level appropriate for novice learners. Activities focus on students' abilities to perform in the interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational modes of communication with a strong focus on target culture literacy. The goal is that students will be able to use what they have learned, in this course, now and in the future. Typical topics in the level one courses include personal identity, family, and activities in the community. Students in the course take an exit exam that is worth 20% of their grade. Students who successfully complete this course will demonstrate Novice Mid proficiency or higher and should register for high school Level II.

Visual Composition II - Semester or Yearlong: Students will continue to develop their technical and artistic skills as they solve problems with their own choice of media. Students will be expected to write critical analysis of the work of others (including the masters) and their own.