

**Lopez  
Middle  
School**

Elective  
Descriptions  
2008-2009  
**Grade 8**



## FULL YEAR ELECTIVE COURSES

### ART:

**(ADVANCED) 8th grade Full Year Only: Requirement: Teacher approval, portfolio review of at least 4 pieces of current artwork and/or one semester of art.** This course is designed for the maturing artistic needs of the student who desires to improve creativity, artistic skill and have a willingness to work hard. The student should be more responsive to the elements and principles of design; be concerned with the creative ideas and presentation as well as materials and techniques; and be able to integrate design elements into art production. A variety of media will be used to create both two and three dimensional work. Computer art will be explored. *Artworks and cultures are studied through evaluations, discussion, and critiques.* Advanced art students will participate in art contest city wide, and school related, etc. Students who are enthusiastic and enjoy seeing the results of their creativity will enjoy the fun and rewarding art projects. **In lieu of a supply list a 10.00 art fee will be collected.**

### BAND:

**Band II:** - Known as the Symphonic Band, this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest performing ensemble on the Lopez campus. This course is offered for 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> graders who have completed Band I. Entry to this course is by audition with a band director. Placement in this course is determined by student proficiency on their individual instrument as well as the needs of the band program. Students will perform many times during the year, including: a fall concert, compete in Region Band, a holiday concert, Pre-UIL festivals, UIL Concert & Sight reading Contest, Solo and Ensemble Contest, a spring concert, and a spring trip/festival. Students should be prepared to spend time outside the normal school day in sectionals/master classes to achieve the level of excellence expected at Lopez and in the Reagan Cluster. **A band program fee may be collected.**

**Band III:** Known as The Honors Band, this is the highest performing band ensemble on the Lopez campus. This course is offered 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> graders who have completed Band I. Entry to this course is by audition with a band director. Placement in this course is determined by student proficiency on their individual instrument as well as the needs of the band program. Students will perform many times during the year, including: a fall concert, compete in Region Band, elementary tour visits, a holiday concert, Pre-UIL festivals, UIL Concert & Sight reading Contest, Solo and Ensemble Contest, a spring concert, and a spring trip/festivals.

The standards of excellence expected from students in this course are extremely high and only very serious and committed students will be considered for membership in the honors band. Students will be challenged during the year to achieve a new level of proficiency to better prepare them for the next level of band for the following year. Students should be prepared to spend time outside the normal school day in sectionals/master classes to achieve the level of excellence expected at Lopez and in the Reagan Cluster. **A band program fee may be collected.**

### CHOIR:

**Choir (Girls):** The study of proper vocal techniques, good choral techniques including blend, balance-intonation, music theory, sight-reading, ensemble and solo performance, and creative self-expression are learning opportunities included in the choral curriculum. Many styles of music are performed including sacred, secular, classical, pop and show-tunes. Attendance at approximately five evening performances is required throughout the school year. Additionally, a limited number of rehearsals outside of the school day are mandatory. Required uniforms are purchased from the school. Opportunities for personal achievement are encouraged with participation in the NEISD Solo and Ensemble Contest and the TMEA Region 12 Honor Choir. Group achievement is stressed in Concert and UIL Contest activities. Students may also choose to join pop ensemble for additional ensemble experience. This group meets either before or after school.

**Choir (Tenor-Bass):** The Lopez Tenor-Bass Choir is a non-auditioned choir open to any interested 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade boy. Male choir members are considered vocal athletes who train and develop their singing skills whether or not a “voice change” has begun. Skills in music theory, vocal technique, ensemble singing and sight-reading are stressed. Many styles of music are performed including sacred, secular, classical, pop and show-tunes. Required uniforms are rented for the year. Attendance at several evening performances is required throughout the school year. Additionally, rehearsals outside of the school day are mandatory. Opportunities for personal achievement are encouraged with participation in the NEISD Solo and Ensemble Contest and the TMEA Region 12 Honor Choir. Group achievement is stressed in Concert and UIL Contest activities. Students may also choose to join the Mixed Choir (boys and girls) and pop ensemble. Both of these groups meet either before or after school for additional ensemble experiences.

**OFFICE AIDE:** This course will aid the students in becoming familiar with general office practices and procedures. Students must have good academic, attendance, and discipline records. Students must return an application with their choice sheet.

### **ORCHESTRA:**

**Orchestra I (Beginning):** Beginning Orchestra is designed for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who are interested in learning to play the violin, viola, cello or bass. No previous experience is required. Students will need to provide their own instruments and will participate in several concerts throughout the year.

**Orchestra II:** Philharmonic Orchestra is the second highest performing orchestra at Lopez. This class is for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders who have one or more years of orchestral experience. Placement in this ensemble is by audition and based on a student’s technical proficiency. Members of this orchestra will perform in several concerts during the year, have the opportunity to audition for the TMEA Region Orchestras, participate in the NEISD Solo and Ensemble contest, and also participate in UIL Orchestra Concert and Sight-reading Contest.

**Orchestra III:** Honors Orchestra is the top performing orchestra at Lopez. This orchestra is designed for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who have demonstrated advanced technical proficiency on their instrument. Students are placed in this orchestra through audition.

Being a member of the Lopez Honors Orchestra requires a high level of commitment and responsibility, as this ensemble participates in many performances and musical activities during the year, including UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest and a spring festival. Students in this class are expected to audition for Region Orchestra and participate in the NEISD Solo and Ensemble Contest. Honors Orchestra students will also be involved in extra sectionals/rehearsals outside the school day.

### **FOREIGN LANGUAGE:**

**Spanish 1B\*\*\*-** This course is the second year of the middle school two-year language program. This is a continuation of the formal study of the Spanish language. The program is designed to allow students more time to acquire the fundamental language skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing Spanish. The middle school Spanish I program emphasizes the development of oral language, and the study of introductory vocabulary, pronunciation and grammar. The culture of the Spanish-speaking world is integrated into all aspects of the course.

*\*\*\*Students who successfully complete Level 1A and 1B will receive one unit of credit on their high school transcripts. This credit will count toward the minimum number of 26 units required for graduation. It may also be used with credits earned in high school to meet college entrance requirements.*

## **THEATRE ARTS:**

**Theatre Arts II:** This full year course presents an extensive sampling of theatrical studies and encourages personal development of performance skills through a variety of speaking and acting situations. Activities include a more detailed study of improvisation, role-playing and acting, pantomime, theatre terminology and history, stage makeup, play analysis, and class play production at the end of the year. This is a performance-oriented class for students interested in developing skills in theatre arts and acting. **8<sup>th</sup> grade students may enroll in this full year class only if they have not taken Theatre II previously in 7<sup>th</sup> grade.** Theatre II students are expected to participate in as many extra-curricular activities in drama throughout the year as possible and should be dedicated to continuing their study of theatre arts.

**Advanced Theatre Arts/Theatre III:** This full year course focuses on the in-depth study of theatre with an emphasis on creative development of the individual actor and the theatre technician. Theatre III is designed for students who have successfully completed one or more years of past theatrical study. Completion of Theatre II and participation in at least one extra-curricular activity within the Drama program as a 7<sup>th</sup> grader is required for enrollment. 8<sup>th</sup> graders new to Lopez must be interviewed for placement within the theatre department. Students enrolled in this advanced class must participate in at least one of the two NEISD Theatre contests during the year and will participate in the fall play production. These extra-curricular activities are performance opportunities and represent a major percentage of the students' grade each semester. Activities for Theatre III include theatre contests, the fall production, UIL One Act Play contest, the spring variety show, and a class Shakespeare production at the end of the year. Theatre III students will also participate in a class audition unit to prepare for placement in the Reagan High School theatre program. All students in Theatre III should be dedicated performers and are expected to participate fully in activities throughout the year.

## **NEW FULL YEAR COURSE OFFERINGS:**

**DEBATE:** This course presents a variety of oral communication techniques with an emphasis on public speaking and debate (formal argumentation of a topic). This is an advanced course that requires well-developed writing skills, critical thinking, and research abilities. The development of individual speaking and debating techniques is essential. Only students with a GPA of 80 or above are encouraged to enroll. All enrolled students are required to participate in at least one Saturday NEISD debate contest as well as after-school practices to prepare for competition.

## **CAREER TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS BLOCK:**

### **Exploring Manufacturing Technology/ Exploring Energy, Power, & Transportation**

**Technology:** This is a project-based course whereby students discover the world of manufacturing through the study of the Textiles, Automotive, Steel, and Construction industries. Students will construct numerous projects relative to the above industries using woodworking equipment. This is an exploratory course designed to investigate the types of activities performed in the energy, power and transportation industry. Through laboratory experiences students explore the skills and technologies. Activities may include building solar collectors, designing, making, and testing land and space vehicles, using pneumatic and electrical devices, and research on alternative energy sources. ***All students must pass a safety test with 100% mastery.*** **This course is open to 8<sup>th</sup> graders only. In lieu of a supply list a lab fee of \$12.00 will be collected to cover the cost of materials for required projects. (Extra students' personal projects may require additional fees).**

## **HALF YEAR (SEMESTER) ELECTIVE COURSES:**

### **ART:**

**Art I: Finding the Artist in You:** Students will explore two- dimensional art with an emphasis on creative thinking, problem solving, and, some three-dimensional art. Media and technique may include: drawing (pencil, marker, pastel), painting (tempera, acrylic, watercolor), printmaking, sculpting with clay, handmade paper, and batik. Students will apply elements and principles of design while expressing themselves in the creation of unique projects. *Artworks and cultures are studied through evaluations, discussion, and critiques.* **In lieu of a supply list a 5.00 art fee will be collected.**

**Art II: Finding the Sculptor in You:** Students will explore art with an emphasis on creative thinking, problem solving and three-dimensional design with some two dimensional work. Students will apply their knowledge of elements and principles of design in the creation of sculpture and mixed media. Media may include: clay, paint, paper, wire, paper mache, wood, reeds, etc. Artworks and cultures are studied through evaluations, discussion, and critiques. In lieu of a supply list an 8.00 art fee will be collected.

### **CAREER TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS:**

**Exploring Construction Technology:** This is an exploratory course designed to investigate the types of activities performed in the construction industry, and through laboratory experiences students explore the skills and technologies of this industry, Content includes the application of technology, the design of products and services, emerging and innovative technologies, safety and maintenance of technology, codes, laws, and standards, marketing, and technology-related career explorations. Activities may include building models of buildings, using construction tools and machines, and designing and building simple structures. All students must pass a safety test with 100% mastery.

### **FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES:**

**Exploratory Home Economics** This course introduces students to beginning techniques of clothing construction where they will have the opportunity to use sewing machines and other equipment to make something they can wear. In addition, students will learn how to dress for success, select and care for clothing, and the basics of planning a budget. Other areas of study include activities that focus on child development and babysitting, as well as interior design principles and techniques, with the opportunity to design your own dream room within the home. Students will be requested to purchase necessary supplies for sewing and interior design projects. **All students must pass a safety test with 100% mastery.**

**Skills for Living** Through meal planning and learning to use recipes to prepare food, students will learn to measure, mix, cook, and serve food with special emphasis on good nutrition to maintain wellness and a healthy lifestyle. Students get to explore many things about themselves, discover the importance of family relationships, and learn tips for planning for the future. Emphasis is on communicating and getting along with others, accepting responsibility, becoming aware of resources, making decisions, caring for children, staying healthy, personal appearance, managing time, and possible career choices. **All students must pass a safety test with 100% mastery.**

## **ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY APPLICATION:**

**Internet Exploration – (Web Page Design):** This course introduces students to the design and development of websites. Students will learn basic website design, digital image creation, and media integration for the Internet. Students will utilize a variety of peripherals including digital cameras and scanners with top-notch software. Student work will be showcased throughout the semester on the Lopez Web Page. This is an **ADVANCED** technology class and a USB Flash Drive and Headphones/Ear buds (1/8" jack) are required.

**Multimedia – (Video Technology):** This course introduces students to the world of creative video production. Students will learn the process involved in video production ranging from scripting, filming, and editing. Students will use leading edge software in conjunction with digital still and video cameras in a variety of classroom projects. Student work will be showcased throughout the semester on the lunch and morning announcements. This is an **ADVANCED** technology class and a USB Flash Drive, Headphones/Ear buds (1/8" jack) **and a course supply fee of \$5 is required.**