**20/21 8th Grade Wheel Class Descriptions**

**Gifted and Talented – Ms. Haubelt**

Awareness can build your most powerful tool, your mind! During this year you’ll explore your thinking through introductory concepts in philosophy, neuroscience, psychology, anthropology, and aesthetics We will be use games, activities, and experiments as a critical guide to understanding our brains and minds. Our evolution, culture, and personal experience leads us to an unique perspective for which you will harness to find your own greatness and the impact that can make on community.

**Audio/Video – Mr. Maurer**

This is a class for students interested in exploring beginning techniques associated with cinema arts. Students will be taught and implement basic narrative storytelling skills into their projects. They will also develop skills in preproduction, production and postproduction. The basics of the video camera, audio and editing software will be covered.

**History Day – Mr. Glassman and Ms. Arnett**

This is a yearlong course that is connected with the National History Day competition, NHD.org, where students can advance from the district, to State and Nationals. Students will choose a historical topic related to the annual theme, and then conduct primary and secondary research. You will look through libraries, archives and museums, conduct oral history interviews, and visit historic sites. After you have analyzed and interpreted your sources, and have drawn a conclusion about the significance of your topic, you will then be able to present your work in one of five ways: as a paper, an exhibit, a performance, a documentary, or a website. Students can work individually or in a group. the district competition is in March/April.

**Visual Arts – Mr. Loftus and Mr. Cliff**

This course is a foundation level introduction to studio arts. This class focuses on 2D design which includes drawing and painting techniques while learning and using the Principles of Design.

**Dance – Ms. Caplan**

The goal of this course is to introduce students to the fundamentals of dance. Fundamentals include coordination, dance technique, flexibility, and an introduction to a variety of dance styles. This class has been created for you to understand, appreciate and use the art of dance as a tool of expression. It is not important that you leave this course a great dancer, but it **is** important that you dedicate your time, attention, and abilities while in this class to the study of dance. I will not tolerate disrespect of the craft, myself or fellow classmates. Overall, this class should be a lot of fun, and I am planning on having a great time working with you all! Dance is a wonderful opportunity to get out of your head and get lost in Music, Movement, and Moments. It is my sincere desire that you will exceed your own expectations in this class and maybe even surprise yourself in the process.

**Mixed Choir Beginning – Ms. Quigley**

The emphasis of this class is to build the skills of choral singing: posture, proper breathing, and breath control, basic vocal pedagogy, diction, phrasing, tone color, dynamics, part singing, and musical performance techniques. Most of these skills will be accomplished through singing, and studying a variety of selections of choral music. Sight singing, music theory, and aural theory skills will also be studied through various activities and written work.

**TheatreArts Musical Production – Dr. Garrison**

The emphasis of this class is to build the skills of musical theater, both on and off the stage. Students’ will focus on becoming a “triple threat” as a performer in the areas of dancing, singing, and acting, building fundamental skills in all of those areas and will also learn basic technical and backstage skills associated with musical theater, such as set-building, costuming, make-up, lights, sound, staging, etc. Students will also explore the basics of: Broadway and musical theater history, theater equipment, and general terminology needed to understand performances and stage work. Students will also analyze and study various musical theater performances.

**Piano – Mr. Alpaugh**

The Piano Skills class is designed to accommodate the student who has had no previous piano training.  Students whose piano skills are beyond the beginner level will be identified by the teacher during the first few days of class and given additional challenges within the class curriculum appropriate to their skill level.  Students who are studying privately may use time in class to practice the music their private teachers assign.

**Theatre Arts Stagecraft Intro – Mr. Gilstrap**

This class offers the student a basic understanding of Stagecraft through theatrical design processes as it pertains to Set, Costume, and Prop Design. This class emphasizes hands-on construction processes and performance while encouraging collaboration & teamwork through the production of an original puppet play.

**Introduction to Digital Media Arts – Ms. Buttery**

Intro to Digital Arts with allow students to explore the basics of the Adobe Suite programs including Lightroom, InDesign, Illustrator and Photoshop. Students will learn to integrate tools between programs and develop practical skills they can integrate into their art form using these programs.

**Investigating Digital Media Arts – Mr. Higgins**

The mission of Intro to Digital Photography is to educate our students in the art and technology of the modern photographic process. The class offers intensive hands-on photography experience nurturing individual talent, skills, and encourages students to become creative and thoughtful practitioners in the world of digital photography.

**JWO (Jazz Workshop Orchestra) – Mr. Hammond**

This class is for 8th – 12th grade wind instruments and percussion. The class also allows for 8 piano, percussion and guitar majors (between grades 8 – 12). JWO is split into 4 smaller ensembles – beginning level to advanced. If Mr. Hammond is not currently aware of your playing ability, he may have you audition for him in August.

**Chamber – Lasansky/Hammond**

This class can be for strings or winds. The teachers place students into small ensembles where they work on small-ensemble music.