

Elective Course Descriptions

The following electives are scheduled to be offered for the 2011-2012 school year. Students will have an opportunity to make their elective selections online beginning February 1, 2011 immediately following the viewing of the Electives video. For more information click on the 7th to 8th Graders tab at <http://rionortejuniorhigh.com>

BEGINNING ART & ANIMATION - Beginning Art is a semester long creative opportunity that offers students amazing art projects which include life drawing, animation drawing, painting, ceramics, printmaking, composition, collage, design, technical skills, elements and principles of design and more. Students get exposed to the important artists, galleries, and museums through internet based teaching. **Advanced Level Art is Available (Portfolio Review required - for more information email dbibicoff@hartdistrict.org).**

BEGINNING BAND - The beginning band is the first step into a larger musical world. In this class, you learn how to read music and play an instrument of the wind band. These include, flute, oboe, clarinet saxophone, trumpet, trombone and baritone.

BEGINNING DRAMA is typically where new drama students start. Drama classes center on developing your creative abilities and talents as well as giving you an inside perspective on theater. A variety of methods are used to help you gain confidence in front of an audience including improvisation, monologues, and scenes with other actors. Everyone is welcome in Beginning Drama.

BEGINNING FOODS- Beginning Foods provides a fun learning environment while teaching practical skills students will use for a lifetime! Before beginning to cook in class, students are introduced to important kitchen skills by learning about safety, equipment, equivalents, and measuring. Other topics covered throughout the semester include reading food labels, MyPyramid and nutrition, the essential nutrients, table setting, and the food and culture of other nations. Students practice new food preparation techniques during a series of approximately twenty cooking labs throughout the semester and by completing five Home Cooking Assignments.

BEGINNING GUITAR - The beginning guitar class is designed for anyone who would like to learn to play the guitar. No previous musical experience is required just a willingness to learn. In this class you learn to read music, play melodic lines, play chords, and finger-pick. An acoustic guitar is needed for this class.

BEGINNING PHOTO - Students have a fantastic opportunity to take digital photography here at Rio Norte Junior High. It is an introductory semester class. Students will learn about an automatic digital operated camera and how to use it to take great pictures. They will work with digital photos and explore Photoshop including photo retouch and more creative digital solutions.

CHOIR – The Rio Norte choir is a non-audition ensemble at Rio Norte. If you like to sing, come join the choir. We perform at major school functions including open house and back to school, as well as the 6th Grade Jamboree. This ensemble also travels to Disneyland in the spring for a music festival. The choir has two performances, one in the fall and the other in the spring. A semester class, this ensemble can be taken both semesters

DANCE focuses exploring different types of dance including hip-hop, jazz, and theatrical. Performances include The Turkey Bowl Half Time Show, Back to School Night, Open House, and the 6th Grade Jamboree. Throughout the semester we will also perform at various lunch time activities included the holiday show and intramural sporting events. This class is a non-auditioned one semester elective

GATEWAY TO TECHNOLOGY - Introduces students to computer design process using a modeling three dimensional software program. Students will create designs of common objects, floor plans, forced air dragsters and magnetic levitation vehicles. Students will use various tools to create and test working models of their designs.

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INDUSTRIAL CRAFTS - This course combines the skills of research and technology development of automation and robotics. Students will be investigating robotics and building Lego Mindstorm Robot. This course will also provide students with the opportunity to explore the field of electronics by designing, building and testing simple circuits.

PEER TUTORING - The Peer Tutoring Elective is an opportunity for students to be role models and mentors for our students with varying degrees of special needs. In the classroom they work with students individually and in small groups modeling appropriate social behaviors. The program benefits all students with friendships that last a lifetime.

TEEN ISSUES: Designed to help the middle-school student develop socially, emotionally, and physically into healthy individuals. Some of the topics addressed in this class include: building self-esteem, setting goals, communicating effectively with friends and parents, and making wise dating choices. In addition, students discuss the reasons for and the effects of bullying, the effects of tobacco use, drug use and alcohol abuse and prevention are also presented. Information regarding HIV/AIDS and other STDs are relayed to the students. The goal of Teen Issues is not just to have students recognize the various dangers they might encounter, but to empower them to make decisions that are in their best interest. All material is delivered in a safe, healthy, respectful and age appropriate environment.

The following courses require teacher approval. They will require an application and/or an audition. Please check our website at: <http://rionortejuniorhigh.com> and click on the "7th to 8th Graders" tab for applications and other important information for these year-long courses.

ADVANCED BAND - The advanced band is the major ensemble at Rio Norte. This group represents the school at all major school functions including the open house, back to school night, 6th Grade Jamboree, Valencia Showcase and the Turkey Bowl game. The ensemble also joins the Valencia High band to play for a football game. This ensemble also travels to Disneyland for a major music festival with an overnight stay at the Disney hotels. The year culminates with the band playing at the promotion ceremony for the 8th grade. The Advanced band has two performances. One in the Fall and the other in the Spring.

AVID - (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is a class in which students develop a deeper understanding of concepts covered in core content classes and improve their skills. Students increase their learning, improve their grades, and have greater potential for being successful.

ASB – Associated Student Body – Rio Norte ASB takes great pride in gathering together a group of hard-working seventh and eighth graders committed to making their school a better place by serving others. ASB works during summer, before school, during breaks, after school, in the evenings, and on weekends organizing activities for both the school and the community. Students in ASB work a minimum of twenty hours outside of class time per quarter in service to the school and community.

DRAMA PRODUCTION This class focuses on our fall comedy and spring musical productions. In order to be part of the Drama Production class you must have some theater experience such as: Rio Norte Beginning Drama, participation in a Rio Norte production, or participation in a show at another theater. This class is designed for eighth graders. Some eligible seventh graders will be added as space permits. You need to audition to get into this class. Please go to the webpage listed above to apply.

INTERMEDIATE BAND - The intermediate band is the first auditioned ensemble at Rio Norte. This is a continuation of the beginning band. This ensemble plays at all major functions like open house and back to school night. They also play at a football game with Valencia High school. This is a traveling ensemble. In the spring, this ensemble travels to Disneyland for a major music festival and overnight stay at Disneyland. The Intermediate band has two performances, one in the fall and the other in the spring.

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INTERMEDIATE DANCE - Intermediate dance is a one semester course for students who wish to be part of Rio Norte Dance Team. Students who are selected for the team will have dance experience, the ability to learn choreography and performance skills. This team dances at the Turkey Bowl Rally, The Turkey Bowl Half Time Show and various other first semester performances. An audition is required to be part of the team and it is for eighth graders only.

SCIENCE OLYMPIAD (Second Semester Only) - Students will be preparing for the Science Olympiad competition. The subject material is advanced and offers an enrichment opportunity to the science curriculum.

SPANISH – This high school level, one year, introductory course in Spanish is designed for those who are preparing for college entrance or who want to lay the groundwork for extensive study of Spanish. The language's basic grammatical structure and vocabulary are taught through practice in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Successful completion of Spanish 1A with a grade of "C" or better at the semester is required to continue with Spanish 1B.

STUDENT SERVICE – requires both parent and teacher approval. (One semester only).

YEARBOOK - Students enrolled in Yearbook are responsible for preserving memories that will last a lifetime. Students will learn and practice photography, writing, layout, design, and production skills as they produce the yearbook. Students will spend much of their class time learning new skills and collaborating with other yearbook team members, and are expected to spend a great deal of time outside the classroom (before school, brunch, lunch, after school, and on weekends) taking photos at school events and then working on assigned pages.