EXPLORATORY OPTION – may include the following courses and will be assigned randomly. Students do not choose which two classes they want as it will be assigned based on scheduling. Requests for changing classes will not be honored.

EXPLORATORY ART (GRADES 6, 7, & 8), Semester
Exploratory Art will expose students to the fundamentals of fine art including the elements of art and principles of design. We will use a variety of mediums and art-making techniques to create artworks that allow students to explore and express their own identities. The projects will challenge students to use creative expression to create artworks that are uniquely individual.

EXPLORATORY CODING (GRADES 6, 7 & 8), Semester
Exploratory Coding is a Computer science course that empowers students to create authentic artifacts and engage with computer science as a medium for creativity, communication, problem solving, and fun. It is a highly interactive and collaborative introduction to the field of computer science, as framed within the broader pursuit of solving problems. Students practice using a problem solving process to address a series of puzzles, challenges, and real world scenarios. Students practice valuable programming skills such as debugging, using resources, and teamwork. In addition to learning program animations, interactive art, and games in Game Lab.

EXPLORATORY CREATIVE WRITING (GRADES 6, 7 & 8), Semester
Exploratory Creative Writing is an introductory writing course where students will be reflective and self-motivated to apply techniques and strategies discussed and modeled in class to draw on unique creativity to improve writing and define own style and personal voice. Students will work in pairs or small group workshops designed to strengthen skills and inspire creativity and develop enhanced awareness of self and of the roles that collaboration, creativity and communication play in the world around us.

EXPLORATORY MUSIC (GRADES 6, 7, & 8), Semester
Exploratory Music is an introduction to music. The emphasis will be to learn by practicing and playing the ukulele, (students have the option to focus on guitar or piano, but these students must supply their own instruments.). Students will learn the science and history of music, how to practice with an instrument and how to support other class members.

EXPLORATORY PLTW – (GRADES 6, 7, & 8), Semester
This CTE course aims to be provide foundational engineering experiences consistent with the CTE pathways provided by Vista Del Lago High school. The course will focus on a different type of engineering annually providing the opportunity for students to take multiple times. Course framework provided through PLTW.

EXPLORATORY SPANISH (GRADES 6, 7, & 8), Semester
This course is part of the Exploratory rotation and is designed to give students an introduction to the Spanish culture, music, arts, and language. This is a conversational Spanish course. There is no main textbook that is used.
YEARLONG ELECTIVES

ADVANCED ART (GRADES 7 & 8), Yearlong
Advanced Art is a year-long class that will challenge students to use the fundamentals of fine art including the elements of art and principles of design to create and explore their own artworks. We will use a variety of mediums and art-making techniques to create artworks that allow students to explore and express their own ideas and identities. The projects will challenge students to use creative expression to create artworks that are uniquely individual. Students will study and teach one another about master artists that will inspire their own artwork. Students will become art literate by developing vocabulary that will allow them to describe, analyze, interpret, and judge the artworks of master artists, classmates, and their own. *(By application only)*

ADVANCED CHOIR (GRADES 7 & 8), Yearlong
This course is designed to provide vocal instruction and general musicianship skills for all choral students. Emphasis will be placed on ensemble singing skills such as pitch matching, tone production, reading rhythms and ear training. Students may be required to attend local performances during the year as audience members. Course requirements include at least two evening concerts and one adjudicated festival per year. Students will perform unison and two part songs.

CURRICULUM SUPPORT & STUDY SKILLS (GRADES 6, 7, & 8), Semester/Yearlong
This class is designed to provide students with academic support and strategies for building good study habits. Topics include but not limited to time management, organization, prioritizing assignments/tasks, and notetaking. If students struggled in current school year with academic performance this class is strongly recommended.

MEDIA PRODUCTIONS (GRADES 7 & 8), Yearlong
This course is designed to provide students the opportunity to create videos through the use of storyboards and film. Students become proficient in editing and publishing videos through the use of software programming. During the class, students will create a Public Service Announcement, an Instructional Video, and produce the Jaguar Daily News. Support for this class is provided by Student Educational Video Awards (SEVA). *(By application only)*

PARTNERS IN PE (GRADES 6, 7, & 8), Yearlong
This course is designed for peer teaching/Individualized Instruction to allow students with disabilities to have individualized instruction through the verbal and physical prompting of their peer tutor. Student Partners will interact with students with disabilities and develop empathy and respect for these students while developing effective leadership skills. *(By application only)*

PLTW ROBOTICS (GRADES 6, 7 & 8), Yearlong
This course is an FMS extension of the PLTW Automation and Robotics course curriculum. Students will focus on the development of automation and robotics and their use to improve daily life. Students investigated mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. They used the VEX® Robotics platform, students design, build, and program real-world devices, such as traffic lights, toll booths, and robotic arms. Students will build upon their prior knowledge and focus it on the specifics of designing, and building robots to complete specific tasks. Students will continue to work with the VEX® Robotics platform and the ROBOTC programming language. Students will have the opportunity to test and compare their projects with their peers through friendly class-wide challenges and competitions.
SPANISH 1A, 1B, and 2, Yearlong
Students will learn how to communicate in Spanish using an interactive storytelling approach while developing language skills (vocab and grammar) using resources that are both online and in text throughout the year. Topics will vary and will pertain to your world, real and imaginative. Students will develop all communication modes and skills of language - listening, reading, speaking and writing - at the specified proficiency level. You will continue to develop your comprehension in all forms to produce communication on your own and interact with it wherever you go. (By application only)

STUDENT BODY LEADERSHIP (GRADES 6, 7, & 8), Yearlong
Students will learn how to work together and lead activities. Students who run for an elected position in Student Council are required to be enrolled in this class. Students will plan events such as: rallies, dances, events, and club rush. As well as plan teacher of the month and spirit days/weeks, then work together to make posters to advertise the activities planned. At the beginning of the year students will work into different groups called committees. Each committee has designated jobs/roles for different activities. Some of these committees include student issues committee, spirit committee, lunchtime committee, service/PR committee, activities committee, and recognition committee. The course is designed to teach the basic concepts of democratic government; leadership skills, group process, team building, time management, and project planning. It affords the student the opportunity for personal development in self-esteem and time management. From team building down to the personal development section in the curriculum, the student has a chance to comprehend and grow in preparation for their future. If you plan on joining Leadership next year, please fill out the application form and have one teacher submit a teacher recommendation. **This course is required for all elected or appointed student body officials and/or class officers like Student Body President. ** (Application must be completed)

TEACHERS ASSISTANT (GRADE 8), Yearlong
A student may request to be an assistant for a teacher, Library, or the Office. Students will be required to demonstrate skills and abilities needed to fulfill duties as determined by the teacher or staff member. Students who request to work in the office or library will learn life skills about working in an office environment such as filing, organizing, communication, as well as working with the public. (By application only)

YEARBOOK (GRADES 6, 7 & 8), Yearlong
This is a journalism class where FMS students are responsible for creating the yearbook for Folsom Middle School. As a yearbook staff member, students learn about and develop skills in writing, layout design, photography, technology, business, organization, communication, management and leadership. (By application only)

MUSIC

JAZZ BAND (GRADES 6, 7 & 8)
Prerequisites: Jazz Band students must be concurrently enrolled in concert band or orchestra or admitted by audition at teacher’s discretion. The middle school band program is designed to provide opportunities for students to learn to play instruments in a group setting and to lead a student to acquire the skills needed for satisfactory individual performance. This course offers playing experiences through which students will achieve a high level of proficiency in the fundamentals of musicianship and technique on their instruments. One of the goals of this course is to prepare students to play in the high school program. Students are required to attend the scheduled public performances. They will perform music at levels 3 and 4.
BEGINNING BAND (GRADES 6 & 7), Yearlong
The middle school band program is designed to provide opportunities for students to learn to play instruments in a group setting and to lead a student to acquire the skills needed for satisfactory individual performance. This course offers the student playing experiences through which he/she may achieve a proficiency in the basic fundamentals of musicianship and technique on his/her instrument. One of the goals of this course is to prepare the student to play in the high school program. Students are required to attend the scheduled public performances. Band or Orchestra placement is based on a student’s grade level and does not require previous instruction with the instrument.

ADVANCED BAND (Grade 7 & 8), Yearlong
Prerequisite: Intermediate Band or Teacher Discretion. The middle school band program is designed to provide opportunities for students to learn to play instruments in a group setting and to lead a student to acquire the skills needed for satisfactory individual performance. This course offers the student playing experiences through which he/she may achieve a proficiency in the basic fundamentals of musicianship and technique on his/her instrument. One of the goals of this course is to prepare the student to play in the high school program. Students are required to attend the scheduled public performances.

BEGINNING ORCHESTRA (GRADES 6 & 7), Yearlong
This course provides the student with an opportunity to learn, review, and expand the fundamentals of reading music and the production of musical tone on the violin, viola, cello, or sting bass. Sometimes pianists will be included by teacher audition. Because of the range of student’s experience, a great deal of the course in individualized. Music listening skills, care of the instrument and music appreciation will be included. Musical heritage will be explored. Emphasis is placed on individual and group performance. Local performances are an important component of the grade for the course. Students will perform music at levels 1 through 2. Band or Orchestra placement is based on a student’s grade level and requires some previous instruction with the instrument.

ADVANCED ORCHESTRA (GRADE 7 & 8), Yearlong
Prerequisite: Intermediate Orchestra or Teacher Discretion
This course provides the student with an opportunity to review and expand technique and music reading as well as the production of musical tone on the violin, viola, cello, or sting bass. Pianists may be included by teacher audition. Music listening skills, care of the instrument, and music appreciation will be included. Musical heritage will be explored. Emphasis is placed on individual and group performance. Local performances are an important component of the grade for the course. Outside performance is encouraged for extra credit. Students will perform music at levels 2 through 3

*****NOTE – Course offerings subject to change at the discretion of the Principal due to scheduling and staffing. *****