

# Tuscaloosa County School System – HILLCREST MIDDLE SCHOOL

## 2021-2022 – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Course Selections

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Elementary School Attended: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: Parent and Student signatures are required in ink at the bottom of the card.**

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDENTS

**READ** all information in the 2020-2021 Middle School Course Handbook and the attached New Course Descriptions page as well as the information on both sides of this card. **DISCUSS** options with teachers, counselors, and parents. **SELECT** courses by placing an “X” in the box beside the course. **PRINT** course titles, fees, and number of semesters in the spaces on the chart below. **NOTE** the amount of course fee, if any. **GET** parent’s signature. **RETURN** this selection card to school on or before **January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021**.

### REQUIRED COURSES

**Core Courses:** All students take academic core courses (English, mathematics, science and social studies) aligned with *The Alabama Course of Study/College and Career Ready Standards*. Students’ abilities and interests are considered as teachers, counselors, and administrators make recommendations for placement in appropriate instructional settings.

**Physical Education:** In addition to the academic core courses, students in middle school grades take physical education each year.

**Advisory:** In addition to the academic core courses and physical education, all students will take an advisory course daily from 8:00-8:18.

**Elective Courses:** All students will take two periods of elective courses. Please select a total of six elective options from the list below. Note that ALL of these courses may not be offered. There must be enough students interested for the course to be offered.

### ELECTIVE COURSES

#### ARTS EDUCATION

##### Two-Semester Courses:

- Band – Fee: \$25
- Band: Group Guitar – Fee: \$25
- Band: Percussion/drumline – Fee: \$25
- Choir – Fee: \$25

##### One-Semester Course:

- Visual Art 8 – Fee: \$25

#### CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

##### Two-Semester Course(s)

- Computer Science Discoveries – Fee: \$25

##### One-Semester Course(s)

- Career Cluster Technologies II – Fee: \$25
- Microsoft Office – Fee: \$25
- Typing – Fee: \$25

#### ACADEMIC, EXPLORATORY AND GENERAL ELECTIVES

##### Two-Semester Course(s)

- Creative Expressions (GATE)\* – Fee: none  
\*For Gifted students only
- Media Arts – Fee: \$25

#### ACADEMIC, EXPLORATORY AND GENERAL ELECTIVES

##### One-Semester Course(s)

- Communications – Fee: none
- Creative Expressions – Fee: none
- Media Relations – Fee: none
- Hobby: Biblical Studies – Fee: none
- Hobby: Chess and Other Games – Fee: none
- Hobby: Hand Crafts – Fee: \$25
- Hobby: History of American Film – Fee: none
- Hobby: Blogging – Fee: none
- Hobby: Home Economics – Fee: \$25
- Hobby: Intro to Foreign Language (Spanish) – Fee: none
- Hobby: Sports Management – Fee: none
- Hobby: STEM – Fee: \$25
- Hobby: Music Composition – Fee: none
- Hobby: Music Appreciation/History – Fee: none

Course Type	Title	Fee	Number of Semesters
Elective 1			
Elective 2			
Elective 3			
Elective 4			
Elective 5			
Elective 6			

Parent/Guardian Statement: "I certify that the information provided by my child is correct. I approve of the courses my child has selected. I understand the information regarding scheduling, promotion, retention, and the schedule change fee described above."

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent or Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Student

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# Tuscaloosa County School System

## 2021-2022 Middle School Course Selections

### **Important Information about Course Selection Cards**

Students are NOT guaranteed to receive the electives that are requested. Requests receive priority; however, courses are scheduled dependent on availability and schedule compatibility. Students who do not return or fill out a course selection card completely, will be placed in classes based on test scores, previous courses, and past performance as well as elective availability and will not be allowed to make schedule changes.

A fee of \$10.00 is required for any schedule change initiated by the student. Second semester student-initiated schedule changes also require a \$10.00 schedule change fee.

Students may pick up schedules prior to the opening of school. Dates for schedule pick-up will be announced in the local media. To obtain a schedule, the student must pay all fees required for courses selected. No schedule may be obtained by a student until all monies owed to the school (lost textbooks, library fines, etc.) have been paid.

### **Fees**

Fees for elective courses must be paid at the time of schedule pick-up. Some schools may allow for pre-payment of fees or the payment of a deposit on fees at the time schedule cards are returned before school is out for the year. Contact the school principal to discuss any difficulty with fee payments.

### **Promotion and Retention (Grades 6 – 8)**

Students in grades 6, 7, and 8 must pass all four (4) courses/subjects (English, mathematics, science, and social studies) and one additional subject.

Students who do not pass the required courses/subjects each year will be retained at their current grade level with the following exceptions:

1. A student who does not meet the established criteria for promotion may be retained one time in grades 6 – 8 if the student has been previously retained in grades K – 5;
2. A student who does not meet the established criteria for promotion may be retained twice in grades 6 – 8 if the student has not been previously retained in grades K – 5;
3. A student should not be retained in middle school if the student will reach his/her sixteenth birthday during the following academic year.

Students will be provided an opportunity to recover up to two courses/subjects during a summer program. Students who do not pass the required core courses/subjects for promotion are strongly encouraged to attend the summer program to pass the required course(s) for promotion. Students may be promoted only at the end of the school year or after summer school. No students will be promoted at midyear.

### **Promotion of Special Education Students**

Promotion of any student in a special education program with the exception of gifted students must be based on the student's accomplishments of goals stated in the Individualized Education Program in conjunction with all other regular program requirements. However, a special education student (except gifted) may not be placed at any grade level unless the student has attended school for a commensurate number of years equal to the proposed grade placement; that is, for a special education student to be placed at the sixth-grade level, he/she must have been enrolled in school for at least 5 years (Policy: 5.26).

### **Special Education Services**

Services for students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) are available for students in middle school grades. Teachers and parents participate in IEP meetings to determine appropriate courses and placement for each student.

### **Gifted Services**

Intellectually gifted children and youth are those who perform or who have demonstrated the potential to perform at high levels in academic or creative fields when compared with others of their age, experience, or environment. These children and youth require services not ordinarily provided by the regular school program. Children and youth possessing these abilities can be found in all populations across all economic strata and in all areas of human endeavor.

**Required Examinations:** Comprehensive assessments for all middle school students are administered at the end of each nine weeks. Written examinations or other assessment techniques that measure student mastery of the nine weeks content may be used. Assessments may include portfolios, products, performances, research papers, or projects. Nine-week assessments should count no more than twenty (20) percent of the nine-week grade. The term grade will be determined from the average of the two nine-weeks' grades.

**Exam Exemptions:** Students may be exempt from a semester exam under the following conditions:

- Possess an A (90–100%) average with three (3) or fewer absences, or
- Possess a B (80–90%) average with two (2) or fewer absences, or
- Possess a C (70-79%) average with one (1) or fewer absences, **AND**

Have no discipline referrals that result in detention or suspension during the semester. The course semester grade for students who meet exemption criteria will be determined from the average of the two nine-week grading periods.