

**South Charlotte Middle School**  
**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Elective Course Offerings & Descriptions 2025-26**

**Yearlong Courses – 36 weeks (every other day)**

- **Band 8th (woodwinds, brass, percussion):** This course is a continuation of the Band 7 experience with opportunities to expand to larger instruments. Students must have successfully completed Band 7 and obtain permission from Carl Ratliff (Band instructor). [Band Video](#)
- **Orchestra 8th:** Students will have an opportunity to explore many styles and periods of literature for string instruments. There are two sections for this course, beginner and advanced - students will be grouped together by the teacher based on experience. We accept all students who are willing to work hard, practice, and meet the expectations for becoming an excellent musician. [Orchestra Video](#)
- **Spanish 1 Part B** (Spanish 1 Part A is a required prerequisite): This course is the second half of a High School credit course. The first half must have been completed in 7th grade. The final grade will be visible on the high school transcript. The course consists of entry level speaking, reading, writing, and listening skills. [Spanish Video](#)

**Semester Courses – 18 weeks (every other day)**

- **Exploring Careers and Employment:** This course is comprised of two instructional modules designed to provide project-based instruction in self-awareness, understanding the world of work and the career planning process. The two modules covered explore the world of work, employment success and job search techniques. Students also participate in Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) competitive events, community service, and leadership activities. These activities provide students the opportunity to apply essential standards and workplace readiness skills through authentic experiences. Language and mathematics are reinforced.
- **Computer Science Discoveries I:** Computer Science Discoveries is an introductory course for 6 - 10th grade students that can be flexibly taught as a single semester or two semesters. Mapped to CSTA standards, the course takes a wide lens on computer science by covering topics such as problem solving, programming, physical computing, user-centered design, and data, while inspiring students as they build their own websites, apps, games, and physical computing devices. Students in CSD 1 learn the basic computer coding and programming language.
- **Computer Science Discoveries II:** Computer Science Discoveries 2 covers topics such as programming, physical computing, HTML/CSS, and data providing students with a real world concept of computer science. Students will be empowered to create authentic artifacts and engage with computer science as a medium for creativity,

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communication, problem solving, and fun at the advanced level. (Computer Science 1 is not a prerequisite for this course.)

- **Introduction to Office Productivity:** is a CTE course comprised of a series of instructional modules designed to provide project-based instruction in computer concepts and software applications. The four modules covered are Advanced Word Processing, Spreadsheets Basics & Formulas, Presentation Basics, and Presentation Techniques.
- **Office Productivity:** is a CTE course that is an extension of Intro to Office Productivity listed above. This course consists of a series of instructional modules designed to provide project-based instruction in computer concepts and software applications. The three modules covered are spreadsheet, charts and advanced functions, database basics, and desktop publishing. Students also participate in Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) competitive events, community service, and leadership activities. Language arts and mathematics are reinforced.
- **Drama 8th:** Students will explore many aspects of the theater including acting, directing, playwriting, pantomime, audience etiquette, musical theater, costuming and set design. Students learn to use drama as a means of expressing themselves and developing their “personal voice” as they work both individually and collaboratively to create performances.
- **Dance 8th:** This course provides beginning instruction in dance as personal expression. Students learn to create compositions, learn performance values, use movement skills, analyze dance, and understand cultural, historical, and interdisciplinary connections with dance.
- **Art 8th:** builds upon students’ individual skills in visual arts. The focus is on applying elements and principles of design to interpret the environment, to elaborate on an idea, and to use it as a means of communication. Students use creative and critical thinking skills as they study the purpose and function of art, the history of art, and the impact of art in cultures.
- **Chorus 8th:** students learn beginning singing techniques within an ensemble setting. In addition to music skills, students will demonstrate skills of cooperation, and learn to compromise and be team players.
- **Beginning Acoustic Guitar I:** This course provides beginning class instructions in playing acoustic guitar. Level 1 performance standards for guitar are achieved. Guitars may be borrowed from the school, leased or purchased from local music dealers.