

Kountze Middle School

James Stevenson, Principal
PO Box 460 Kountze, TX 77625

Beth Richardson, Counselor
PHONE: 409-246-3551 FAX: 409-246-8907

February 28, 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian:

It's hard to believe we are in the fifth sixth weeks of this school year and already starting to think about schedules for next year. Course selection sheets will be done electronically this year. I will be at KIS on March 7 to go over this information with your student. A link will be provided for you and your student to complete together at home or your student can work on it at school. All 7th grade students will take English, Math, Science, and Texas History as well as PE or Athletics. Each student will take 3 elective classes, but please choose at least 4 electives from the following list of courses and rank them in order of your preference in case one of the electives is unavailable. : Band, Instrumental, Choir, Piano, Art, Learn by Design, Spanish I or II, Robotics, Aviation Science, Principles of Construction, and Introduction to Agriculture (This selection is subject to change as personnel and master schedule changes occur) A description of the electives is attached so that you and your student can start talking about their options.

The web address/link for making the course selections is: <https://goo.gl/4iCx4U> and will begin working March 8.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions as your student begins the transition to Kountze Middle School!

Beth Richardson
KMS Counselor
berichard@kountzeisd.org

8th Grade Elective Course Descriptions

Learn By Design: We raise school spirit by creating uplifting bulletin boards and decorating the halls. We decorate teachers' doors for each holiday. We also do community work by creating seasonal cards for both Kountze and Silsbee nursing homes.

Art: Our objective is to learn appropriate art vocabulary and museum etiquette. We fine tune our art skills so that we can better appreciate works of art and enter contests within and outside of our community.

Career Cruising: An Internet-based career exploration and planning tool used by your son or daughter to explore career and college options and develop a career plan. Career Cruising is a required course for all eighth grade students.

Aviation Science: A brief look into all aspects of aviation including aviation history, types of airplanes, how an airplane flies, air traffic control simulations, helicopters, rocketry, etc.

Principles of Construction: A hands on shop class that concentrates on the carpentry craft. We build several projects throughout the year ranging from deer blinds to cabinetry. Good work and safety practices are implemented consistently as part of our goals and objectives.

PE (Fitness): Students will learn the benefits from involvement in daily physical activity and factors that affect physical performance. Attire for the class is: black shorts/sweat/wind pant of any color, red top/sweat top of any color and tennis shoes.

Athletics: Students will participate in competitive volleyball, football, basketball, and track according to UIL standards. All students in athletics must have an athletic physical before school starts which is offered by the school for a nominal fee or may be obtained from a personal physician.

Piano: This course is designed to introduce students to the fundamentals of music through the art of playing piano. Students will learn basic piano technique, sight reading, improvisation, harmonization of popular songs, and music theory. We will work on a variety of repertoire in different genres and styles ranging from Beethoven and Mozart to jazz and pop tunes. At the end of the course students will perform in a short recital to showcase their accomplishments.

Symphonic Band (4707-01) ALSO Instrumental Classes

Prerequisite: None; beginners welcomed!

The Symphonic Band (level I) class offers instruction on woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments with a focus on the skills necessary for long-term student success. Fundamentals stressed include proper posture and playing position, development of characteristic tone quality, and training in music literacy. The Level I Symphonic Band class may also be ideal for those

already with experience but who may need a review and reinforcement of music reading, playing fundamentals and techniques that are vital for lasting musical development.

Wind Ensemble (4707-03 & 4708-01)

Prerequisite: Beginning Band and/or Symphonic Band

Prerequisite: Completion of Level I Band OR by audition (see below).

The Wind Ensemble (level II) is for 7th and 8th grade band students who already have an understanding of basic music reading, instrument assembly and maintenance, correct playing position and sound tone production. Instruction offers continued focus on the refinement of tone quality, technique, aural skills and music literacy. Select students may have the opportunity to transition to instruments that may not have been offered in previous band experiences. Placement in the level II Wind Ensemble is by audition only.

Spanish I & II: These classes are for high school credit and are broadcast from KHS with a proctor in the classroom. Students should be self disciplined and motivated.

Introduction to Agriculture: Principles of Agriculture Food and Natural Resources is the first class offered to students in agriculture based CTE courses. 8th grade students will be able to earn high school credit from this course. Topics covered are a small sample of a vast range of agriculture courses offered at the high school level as well as other agriculture related topics and FFA Leadership experiences. This will give students a better idea of courses they want to expand into during their high school years.

Food & Nutrition: Students will learn the basics of Nutrition, including how to properly read food labels and make good decisions about the food they eat. Students will learn the basics of cooking, including how to properly measure when cooking and how to read recipes. Students will prepare simple dishes in class.