Fallon Middle School students take either two semester-long electives OR one full year-long elective.

**Semester-long Elective Courses**

**Drama**
Students in this course will learn the fundamental skills of performing on the stage. The curriculum will include basic acting skills, set design, stage terminology, and the opportunity to direct. Students will engage in team building exercises and work with each other to complete tasks. They will be expected to perform in front of their classmates and peers.

**Introduction to Speech and Debate**
This course is designed for students who want to improve their public speaking skills and practice the art of structured speech and debate. Students in this course will work independently and collaboratively to develop and present positions on a variety of current topics. Students will study famous speeches, practice a variety of speech formats and topics, and take a crack at group debate as well. Students will have the opportunity to pick speech and debate topics that they are interested in and passionate about to keep the class fun and interesting!

**Leadership: Mustang Activities Crew “MAC”**
Students in this leadership class will have primary responsibility for developing and implementing safe, fun lunchtime sports and activities for 6th grade Fallon students. Students in the Mustang Activities Crew will also generate school spirit, assist the Fallon Pride Team leadership class with special projects, and serve as student role models.

**Pilates, Yoga and Dance**
This course introduces students to life-long fitness skills designed to build and maintain core strength, posture, flexibility, and coordination. Students will be able to learn the basic movements of pilates, yoga and dance, as well as develop life-long practices for effective stress relief and relaxation techniques. Students will also be able to learn the valuable skills of creativity and collaboration as they work with their classmates to develop pilates, yoga and dance combinations or routines, in a safe, respectful and fun learning environment.

**Quest: Life Skills and More**
As with the 6th grade Quest wheel class, students will continue to learn how to constructively manage their own emotions and their relationships with others as part of becoming healthy, happy, and confident young adults. Students will also work towards improving Fallon’s school culture through peer education on topics like bullying and stress. In addition, students will engage in a fun service-learning project at school or in our community. This class is open to all 7th and 8th graders.

**Video Production**
This is an introductory course on the technical and media skills of the global multimedia environment with an emphasis on iMovie. It will focus on writing, graphics, filming, editing, and production, with the goal of starting a Fallon video bulletin in the future. Projects will be concentrated on school-site activities. Students with an interest in writing, speaking and technology should enjoy this course. Students should be able to work independently, as well as be supportive, contributing members during group work.

**Visual Arts**
The visual arts elective is designed to help students develop their ability to use a variety of materials and processes in order to creatively solve problems and express their unique view of the world. This course is an introduction to the art community – some art history, some fundamentals, an in-depth venture into the creative process, and an exploration into using questioning and reflection as tools for decision-making. Students will be challenged to take risks as they consider the relationship between making mistakes and making art. Projects include drawing, painting, collage, and basic sculpture, and use a range of media.
Project Lead the Way “Gateway” Semester-long Elective Courses

Gateway's cutting-edge program addresses the interest and energy of middle school students, while incorporating national standards in math, science and technology. Gateway is "activity oriented" to show students how technology is used in engineering to solve everyday problems. The semester-long courses excite and motivate students to use their imaginations and teach them to be creative and innovative, while gaining the skills they need to develop, produce and use products and services. For more information about Project Lead the Way, visit: www.pltwcalifornia.org

PLTW: Automation and Robotics
Students trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics. They learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation and computer control systems. Students use a robust robotics platform to design, build and program a solution to solve an existing problem.

PLTW: Design and Modeling
Students begin to recognize the value of an engineering notebook to document and capture their ideas. They are introduced to and use the design process to solve problems and understand the influence that creative and innovative design has on our lives. Students use industry standard 3D modeling software to create a virtual image of their designs and produce a portfolio to showcase their creative solutions.

PLTW: Flight and Space
The rich history of aerospace comes alive through hands-on activities, research, and a presentation in the form of a short informational video. Students explore the science behind aeronautics and use their knowledge to design, build and test an airfoil. Custom-built simulation software allows students to experience space travel.

PLTW: Introduction to Computer Science
Studies show that by 2018, 1.4 million job openings will be available for computer specialists. In this unit, students discover the principles of this fast-growing field by focusing on creativity and an iterative design process as they create their own basic apps using MIT App Inventor. Students continue to explore the fundamentals of the stimulating career path of computer science by venturing into text programming through Python.

PLTW: Medical Detectives
Students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they analyze genetic testing results to diagnose disease and study DNA evidence found at a “crime scene.” They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, investigate how to measure and interpret vital signs, and learn how the systems of the human body work together to maintain health.

New PLTW Semester-long Elective Course!

PLTW: Computer Science for Innovators and Makers
In this new course, students will discover computer science concepts and skills by creating personally relevant, visible, tangible, and shareable projects. Throughout the unit, students will learn about programming for the physical world by blending hardware design and software development. They will design and develop a physical computing device, interactive art installation, or wearable and plan and develop code for microcontrollers that bring their physical designs to life. Physical computing projects will promote student awareness of interactive systems, including Internet of Things (IoT) devices, and broaden their understanding of abstract computer science concepts through meaningful and authentic applications.

So, you say you want MORE?

We realize that so many exciting options can make it difficult to prioritize your choices. Fortunately, we have several other venues available for middle school students to pursue their passions. Information about extra-curricular activities including Student Clubs, our Parent Faculty Club Enrichment Program, and Dublin Partners in Education Summer Academy can be found here:

Student Clubs: http://www.dublin.k12.ca.us/domain/1052
PFC Enrichment Programs: https://sites.google.com/site/fallonschoolpfc/enrichment-programs
Dublin Partners in Education: http://www.dpie.org/stem-summer-programs/
Full Year-long Elective Courses

Music
Year-long courses; participation in performances outside school-day required. Questions about our music program may be directed to Mr. Lee Carpenter (band) at carpenterlee@dublinusd.org or Mr. Ramesh Maraj (orchestra) at marajramesh@dublinusd.org.

Beginning Band
This class is for the students who didn’t get a chance or didn’t have the desire to learn a band instrument in elementary school. Students may take this class to learn a second instrument as well. This will be an accelerated program so the student may join the Advanced Band program within one year.

Symphonic Band
The symphonic band is an all-purpose band. It functions as both a Concert Band and a Marching Band. The Symphonic Band will perform in the fall, winter and spring and the Marching Band will perform at a few events in the spring. Attendance at all rehearsals and performances outside of the school day are required.

Jazz Band
This course is for the most advanced musicians of the school and features major jazz styles of moderate to difficult music, including swing, Latin, light rock, funk, and big band. Students should have at least one year of previous experience on their instruments. Enrollment is by audition only.

Beginning String Orchestra
In this course attention is focused on introductory music fundamentals, technical achievement, and acquisition of performance and rehearsal skills through exposure to a variety of music literature. Orchestra is open to students with little or no string instrument experience who wish to extend their knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of music by learning to play a string instrument. Students will perform in a variety of performances throughout the school year. Attendance at all performances is mandatory.

Advanced String Orchestra
In this course attention is focused on intermediate to advanced music fundamentals, technical achievement, and acquisition of performance and rehearsal skills through exposure to a variety of music literature. Advanced Orchestra is open to students with at least two years playing experience. Students will perform in a variety of performances throughout the school year. Attendance at all performances is mandatory.

World Languages
These year-long courses are designed to introduce students to basic grammar, vocabulary and conversation in the target language. They are intended for students with no prior knowledge of the target language. Material on the geography and culture of peoples speaking the target language is also included to the extent time allows.

French 1 (8th grade only)
French is offered only as a one-year accelerated course equivalent to high school French 1 course. 7th grade students are required to maintain a “B” in English Language Arts and a GPA of 3.0 to be an eligible candidate. This course is designed to introduce the student to basic grammar, vocabulary and conversation in French. Material on the geography and culture of French-speaking countries is also included. Students who complete this course with a “B” grade or higher are generally prepared to enter French 2 in 9th grade.

Mandarin Chinese 1A (7th grade) and Mandarin Chinese 1B (8th grade)
Mandarin is not offered as an accelerated one-year course at the middle school level. Students who wish to complete one year of Mandarin instruction in middle school must take 1A in 7th grade and 1B in 8th grade. Students who complete this course with a “B” grade or higher are generally prepared to enter Mandarin 2 in 9th grade.

Spanish 1 (8th grade only)
Spanish is offered only as a one-year accelerated course equivalent to high school Spanish 1 course. 7th grade students are required to maintain a “B” in English Language Arts and a GPA of 3.0 to be an eligible candidate. This course introduces the student to basic vocabulary, grammar and conversation in Spanish. The geography and culture of Spanish-speaking countries will also be explored. Students who complete this course with a “B” grade or higher are generally prepared to enter Spanish 2 in 9th grade.
Year-long Elective Courses Requiring Application and Teacher Recommendation*

AVID: Advancement Via Individual Determination
The AVID elective is a class that focuses on organization, study skills, and team building. Students participate in tutorial/study groups, discuss and write about relevant topics related to their future, research colleges and careers, listen to monthly guest speakers, and attend an annual field trip to local colleges. 7th grade questions may be directed to Mrs. Anna Kopacz at kopaczanna@dublinusd.org. 8th grade questions may be directed to Ms. Nicole Richards at richardsnicole@dublinusd.org.

Leadership: Fallon Pride Team “FPT” (8th grade only)
Students in this class will develop the knowledge and skills necessary to bring about positive change, building community within a diverse student body. They will understand the qualities and characteristics of an effective leader; encourage social justice and equity for all; learn from people of all backgrounds and experiences; and work with others to achieve goals. Students will be responsible for organizing social activities, promoting school spirit, being student role model and more. Students are admitted to this course by application only. Questions may be directed to Ms. Natalie Young at yougnatalie@dublinusd.org.

Speech and Debate
This course is designed for students who are interested in learning debate, argument, and refutation skills. Students in this course will work independently and collaboratively in teams of three to develop, research, and present cases on a variety of topics pertaining to current events and public policy. Students will practice debate against their peers in class, and all students enrolled will have an opportunity to try out to participate in Saturday tournaments hosted by the East Bay Debate League, which is part of the nationwide Middle School Public Debate Program. At these tournaments, students will compete against other debate students from across the East Bay, and will even have opportunities to go to region- and state-wide competitions. Students are admitted to this course by application only. Questions may be directed to Mrs. Monica Lewis at lewismonica@dublinusd.org.

Yearbook
In this class students use desktop publishing skills to design and produce the school yearbook. Students will learn desktop publishing skills, advanced design principles, the importance of working as a team to complete tasks successfully and on time, and their rights and responsibilities as student journalists. Students are admitted to this course by application only. Questions may be directed to Ms. Vena Geasa at geasavena@dublinusd.org.

*Applications for these courses are available in the office and on our school website. Completed applications must be returned to the Fallon office on or before Thursday, January 26th.

Want to stay informed? Subscribe to email communication from Fallon PFC. This includes the Fallon Flash -a weekly update of activities, calendar events, and volunteer opportunities. Subscribe to our PFC Newsflash:

http://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/manage/optin?v=001EyhAzQnagngxsLrb60Gs5PvaGotrjCe-TtPElgenypIlIiWhtqY4W-oKd9zS3Dlrva-jPpxOV5dFLnUdTv-W4ymT9PDg0bsIHr41GcY%3D

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