

8th Grade

SUNSET HILLS ELECTIVES 2026-2027

IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN CHOOSING ELECTIVES:

1. You must choose at least ONE PE, ONE Art/Music, and ONE iExplore course as your FIRST CHOICE at some point in the school year. *If you do not follow this instruction, one will be selected for you based on space.*
2. After you have chosen your three required courses, you may fill the rest of your schedule with courses of your choosing. *Please note, you will not be given PE for both A Day and B Day in a single quarter.*
3. Band or Choir can satisfy your one Art/Music course requirement (but you may choose additional Music courses if they will fit in your schedule).
4. While we do our best to schedule your preferred courses, please note that due to class dynamics and capacity we can not guarantee placement in any course.
5. Once Electives are selected and registered, the school will be unable to honor student/parent requests for schedule changes.
6. If your registration form is submitted after the deadline, your preferences will be considered, but your placement in classes of your choice may not be possible due to space or equipment limitations.

Please read the Frequently Asked Questions at the end of this course catalog for additional guidance.

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1st Quarter	Day A	Day B
<p>Art</p>	<p><u>3D Multimedia</u> This art course deals with art in its 3-Dimensional form. A variety of mediums will be explored, which may include textiles, ceramics, paper mache', wire sculpture, and more. Students will participate in a wide range of experiences using additive or subtractive sculptural techniques designed to build artistic and creative confidence. An appreciation for art history will be developed. Projects are designed to teach thinking skills and to include useful art experiences such as color theory so that no matter what vocation students pursue, the knowledge gained in this class will be of value to them.</p>	<p><u>3D Multimedia</u> This art course deals with art in its 3-Dimensional form. A variety of mediums will be explored, which may include textiles, ceramics, paper mache', wire sculpture, and more. Students will participate in a wide range of experiences using additive or subtractive sculptural techniques designed to build artistic and creative confidence. An appreciation for art history will be developed. Projects are designed to teach thinking skills and to include useful art experiences such as color theory so that no matter what vocation students pursue, the knowledge gained in this class will be of value to them.</p>
<p>Band</p>		<p><u>Band</u> Students will learn to play a band instrument, read music, play songs, and perform together for a Winter and Spring Concert at Shadow Ridge High School and the spring Festival of Arts. Most families choose to rent an instrument from Music&Arts for about \$23/month. The rental includes the instrument, repair, theft protection, and credit toward future purchase. There will be an instrument rental night at school in August. In addition, students are responsible for their instrument supplies (reeds, valve oil, etc.). There are also a small number of instruments available to rent through the school. These instruments are rented on a first come, first served basis each fall. Be aware that students with district instruments who are not active in rehearsal and home practice can have their instrument assigned to another student. Students will meet for band on Day A at a predetermined time during the school day once per week as long as they are not currently receiving a grade of D or F in core classes, and on Day B as a class during</p>

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		<p>Electives. <i>This means students will have the opportunity to be in band up to 3 days per week while still participating in another Elective class (e.g. PE, Art, etc.) every quarter. All students enrolled in Band will be registered in the Elective for the full school year.</i></p>
<p>iExplore</p>	<p><u>Coding and Robotics</u> Coding students will learn foundational skills in computational thinking, computing practice, and programming. They will decompose problems into smaller more manageable parts, and create algorithms to solve them. Students will use hands-on learning and robotics to explore computing concepts. To write programs, they will use visual (block-based) or text-based programming languages. By the end of the course students will be able to communicate what they have learned about sequence, loops, functions, and conditional statements. Students who work responsibly throughout the course will be applying their coding concepts and skills to hands-on robotics projects!</p>	<p><u>Creative Technology: Yearbook 1 (Photography)</u> Our school's yearbook will be a student-created product, designed by 5th- 8th grade students who are interested in photography, journalism, and graphic design. <i>Any students who want to take Yearbook 3 (Graphic Design) *must* take Yearbook 1 or 2 as the prerequisite course.</i> During this quarter, students will learn and apply photography skills while focusing on various aspects of composition, identifying the features of the different manual modes of a DSLR camera, and applying editing skills to their photographs. The students will also create a mock yearbook page, using Canva, applying journalistic and graphic design skills. <i>Any students are welcome to take Yearbook 1, even if they don't move onto Yearbook 2 or 3!!</i> There will also be an optional afterschool Yearbook Club to attend as well.</p>
<p>Music</p>	<p><u>Afterglow Choir</u> This performance-based course is designed to focus on singing as a group. Students will focus on learning different types of choral music, sight-reading, correct singing techniques, and performance etiquette. There will be required performances outside of the school day as part of the grade for this course (e.g. concerts). Additional information will go home on the first day of class in the syllabus. <i>Choir has a minimum one semester requirement (i.e. students must register for either quarter 1 and 2 <u>or</u> quarter 3 and 4).</i> There is also a full-year membership requirement for students who intend to be a part of the group that travels to perform at Disneyland (in addition to after-school rehearsals and fundraising). A parent meeting will be scheduled in early September to share detailed information about this</p>	<p><u>Music History - American Popular Music</u> Students will use technology regularly to explore the origins of today's popular music. Students will explore various genres of American popular music. This is a survey course designed to explore popular music in the US, including Rock & Roll, R&B, Pop, Hip-Hop and Rap, among others. Students will use technology to identify connections between various genres, and highlight the most influential performers of the past and of our time while engaging in activities to connect these styles to their own music preferences.</p>

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	<p>traveling opportunity. Participation in the Disneyland trip is optional. For the Elective course, a one-time fee of \$20 is required for all performing members, which includes the official performance shirt (if enrolled in Choir for both semesters, this fee is only paid once). <i>Students who register for the whole year will still be able to participate in another different Elective each quarter.</i></p>	
PE	<p><u>Net and Racquet Sports</u> The students will be participating in volleyball, badminton, pickleball, etc... These activities will focus on the needed fundamental skills for these sports as well as cooperation and teamwork.</p>	<p><u>Net and Racquet Sports</u> The students will be participating in volleyball, badminton, pickleball, etc... These activities will focus on the needed fundamental skills for these sports as well as cooperation and teamwork.</p>

2nd Quarter	Day A	Day B
Art	<p><u>Ceramics</u> Students will gain knowledge and understanding of different media, tools, and processes for ceramic making. They will sketch, design and practice a variety of skills needed to create a ceramic project. (textures, shapes, attaching, coiling, rolling, smudging) They will learn the techniques of clay molding, firing, and painting the ceramic project.</p>	<p><u>Ceramics</u> Students will gain knowledge and understanding of different media, tools, and processes for ceramic making. They will sketch, design and practice a variety of skills needed to create a ceramic project. (textures, shapes, attaching, coiling, rolling, smudging) They will learn the techniques of clay molding, firing, and painting the ceramic project.</p>

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<p>Band</p>		<p><u>Band</u> This quarter is a continuation of the Band class from the first quarter. In order to register for Band in Quarter 2, you must also have registered for Band in all other quarters.</p>
<p>iExplore</p>	<p><u>STEM Projects</u> Students will work collaboratively and think critically to solve design challenges using everyday materials in a creative way. Students will build on their background knowledge of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math to create a prototype that solves a given problem while using Design Thinking and the Engineering Design Process. This elective is great for students who enjoy working with their hands, being creative, and working in groups.</p>	<p><u>Creative Technology: Yearbook 2 (Journalism)</u> Our school's yearbook will be a student-created product, designed by 5th- 8th grade students who are interested in photography, journalism, and graphic design. Any students who want to take Yearbook 3 (Graphic Design) <i>*must*</i> take Yearbook 1 and/or 2 as the prerequisite course.. During this quarter, students will learn and apply journalistic skills while focusing on: interviewing, writing, and editing/ revising short articles about the people and events at Sunset Hills. The students will also create a mock yearbook page, using Canva, applying journalistic and graphic design skills. <i>Any students are welcome to take Yearbook 2, even if they don't move onto Yearbook 3!!</i> There will also be an afterschool Yearbook Club to attend as well.</p>
<p>Music</p>	<p><u>Afterglow Choir</u> A continuation of the Choir Elective. If you selected Choir for the first quarter, you must also select it for this quarter.</p>	<p><u>Musical Theatre Performance</u> In this performance-based course, students will explore the different performing aspects of Musical Theatre and Broadway. Throughout the course, students will be active in improvisation, singing, and acting techniques. This course is highly recommended for all students interested in participating in next year's school-wide production (which also requires after-school rehearsals between September and February), but is open to all students interested in learning about and preparing for a theatrical production. Students will study and practice the basics of stage performance, develop skills in theatrical vocal performance, and learn about the many components and collaborative elements associated with theatrical productions. <i>This course is offered for two quarters, and it is recommended that all students who intend to participate in the school musical register for <u>both</u> quarters it is offered.</i> While students</p>

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		can choose to participate for only one quarter, the second quarter it is offered will be a <u>continuation</u> of the learning from the first section.
PE	<p><u>Team Sports 1</u> The students will be participating in various striking sports. Examples of these sports could include hockey, lacrosse, Teeball, etc.... These activities will focus on cooperation, teamwork and hand-eye coordination.</p>	<p><u>Team Sports 1</u> The students will be participating in various striking sports. Examples of these sports could include hockey, lacrosse, Teeball, etc.... These activities will focus on cooperation, teamwork and hand-eye coordination.</p>

3rd Quarter	Day A	Day B
Art	<p><u>Collaborative Art:</u> Students will work together to create various pieces of artwork. This course will focus on the skills needed to work collaboratively to complete murals, posters, sidewalk art, set backdrops, or their own class art show.</p>	<p><u>Collaborative Art:</u> Students will work together to create various pieces of artwork. This course will focus on the skills needed to work collaboratively to complete murals, posters, sidewalk art, set backdrops, or their own class art show.</p>
Band		<p><u>Band</u> This quarter is a continuation of the Band class from the first quarter. In order to register for Band in Quarter 3, you must also have registered for Band in all other quarters.</p>
iExplore	<p><u>Advanced Coding/ Robotics</u> <i>(This is NOT a beginner's course- coding experience is required).</i> Coding students will apply advanced programming skills as they will decompose problems into smaller more manageable parts, and create algorithms to solve them. To write programs, they will use language-based programming languages. By the end of the course students will be able to communicate what they have</p>	<p><u>Creative Technology: Yearbook 3 (Graphic Design)</u> Our school's yearbook will be a student-created product, designed by 5th- 8th grade students who are interested in photography, journalism, and graphic design. Any students who want to take Yearbook 3 (Graphic Design) *must* take Yearbook 1 and/or 2 as the prerequisite course. During this quarter, students will learn and apply graphic design concepts as they synthesize the photos and</p>

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	<p>learned about sequence, loops, functions, and conditional statements. Students will also design, build, and program robots to investigate solutions and solve problems.</p>	<p>journalism articles (from Yearbook 1/ Yearbook 2) into the final yearbook design. Students will be organized into editing teams who collaborate across the middle school grades and communicate effectively as a team in an afterschool Yearbook Club.</p>
Music	<p><u>Afterglow Choir</u> This performance-based course is designed to focus on singing as a group. Students will focus on learning different types of choral music, sight-reading, correct singing techniques, and performance etiquette. There will be required performances outside of the school day as part of the grade for this course (e.g. concerts). Additional information will go home on the first day of class in the syllabus. <i>Choir has a minimum one semester requirement (i.e. students must register for either quarter 1 and 2 <u>or</u> quarter 3 and 4). There is also a full-year membership requirement for students who intend to be a part of the group that travels to perform at Disneyland (in addition to after-school rehearsals and fundraising). A parent meeting will be scheduled in early September to share detailed information about this traveling opportunity. Participation in the Disneyland trip is optional. For the Elective course, a one-time fee of \$20 is required for all performing members, which includes the official performance shirt (if enrolled in Choir for both semesters, this fee is only paid once). <i>Students who register for the whole year will still be able to participate in another different Elective each quarter.</i></i></p>	<p><u>Musical Theatre Arts</u> In this performance-based course, students will look at the different performing aspects of Musical Theatre and Broadway. Throughout the course, students will be active in exploring the behind-the-scenes aspects of Musical Theatre. This course is highly recommended for all students interested in participating in next year's school-wide production (which also requires after-school rehearsals between September and February), but is open to all students interested in learning about and preparing for a theatrical production. Students will study and practice the basics of stage design, management, prop development, special effects, costuming, etc. <i>This course is offered for two quarters, and it is recommended that all students who intend to participate in the school musical register for <u>both</u> quarters it is offered. While students can choose to participate for only one quarter, the second quarter it is offered will be a <u>continuation</u> of the learning from the first section.</i></p>
PE	<p><u>Team Sports 2</u> The students will be participating in various sports. Examples of these sports could include Basketball, football, soccer, handball, etc.. These activities will focus on cooperation, teamwork and sports skills.</p>	<p><u>Team Sports 2</u> The students will be participating in various sports. Examples of these sports could include Basketball, football, soccer, handball, etc.. These activities will focus on cooperation, teamwork and sports skills.</p>

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4th Quarter	Day A	Day B
Art	<p><u>Fiber Arts:</u> In this course, students will explore sewing, weaving, and braiding through hands-on projects. They will work with yarn, cotton, fabric, burlap, and other fiber materials to create both functional and decorative art. The class emphasizes creativity, craftsmanship, and an appreciation for texture, pattern, and design.</p>	<p><u>Fiber Arts:</u> In this course, students will explore sewing, weaving, and braiding through hands-on projects. They will work with yarn, cotton, fabric, burlap, and other fiber materials to create both functional and decorative art. The class emphasizes creativity, craftsmanship, and an appreciation for texture, pattern, and design.</p>
Band		<p><u>Band</u> This quarter is a continuation of the Band class from the first quarter. In order to register for Band in Quarter 4, you must also have registered for Band in all other quarters.</p>
iExplore	<p><u>Creative Technology: StopMotion</u> Students will create an animated short movie with art and photography by creating a detailed storyboard, designing 3D manipulatives (set, characters, and props), applying StopMotion photography, and finalizing with a Stopmotion application. We celebrate our hard work at the end of the quarter with Movie Day and popcorn!</p>	<p><u>Creative Technology: Engineering and Entrepreneurship</u> Students will create a hands-on object, applying the Engineering Design Process, to duplicate and sell at the Bobcat Craft Fair. Students will create a business plan, including a financial budget, hands-on product creation, and marketing strategies and skills. They will implement this as a real business while preparing the product in class and collaborating with classmates to actively participate in the Bobcat Craft Fair (usually in May during the Academic Showcase).</p>
Music	<p><u>Afterglow Choir</u> A continuation of the Choir Elective. If you selected Choir for the third quarter, you must also select it for this quarter.</p>	<p><u>Music History - Musical Theatre Survey</u> Students will use technology regularly to explore the origins of today's music genres. This course will focus exclusively on the origins and current trends in Musical Theatre. A survey courseStudents will observe and explore all aspects of modern Musical Theatre, including stage, costume, and lighting design,</p>

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		casting, makeup, and performance. Course culminates with watching and critically evaluating a full, stage performance of an award-winning Broadway musical.
PE	<p><u>Strategy Games</u> Students will be participating in various strategy games. Examples of these sports could include various disc sports, golf, bowling, capture the flag, cornhole, spike ball, handball, tag games, throwing games, fitness, etc... We will focus on learning the rules and regulations for these various sports. These activities will focus on cooperation and team building activities. Strategies and sportsmanship will be points of emphasis.</p>	<p><u>Strategy Games</u> Students will be participating in various strategy games. Examples of these sports could include various disc sports, golf, bowling, capture the flag, cornhole, spike ball, handball, tag games, throwing games etc... We will focus on learning the rules and regulations for these various sports. These activities will focus on cooperation and team building activities. Strategies and sportsmanship will be points of emphasis.</p>

Elective FAQ's

What grade levels get to participate?

Grades 5-8 will have Electives for the entire school year.

Does this replace my Specials time?

Yes. Instead of having to participate in all Specials classes, the Specials teachers are offering more personalized classes and students will get to choose which courses they attend.

Who is teaching the classes?

Special Area Teachers - PE, Music, Art, Band, iExplore

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What if I still want to go to every Specials class?

Students get to choose 8 Electives for the year. When signing up for classes students can select one from every subject area if they choose.

What does it mean by Day A and Day B?

Each quarter students will get to attend two different Electives. One Elective will be held on Tuesday and Thursdays (Day A), the other Elective will be held on Wednesdays and Fridays (Day B). Mondays will alternate between A and B days each week.

What courses am I required to take?

During the course of the school year, each student must take at least one PE, one MUSIC/ART and one iEXPLORE Elective. The only exception to this rule: Students who enroll in Choir AND Band *for the full year* are excused from taking other classes (this requires both parent and principal approval).

What if I want to take a class more than once?

Students cannot be enrolled in the same Elective class on both Day A and Day B (e.g. Team Sports A on both Day A and Day B). Electives are offered by quarter so that there is no opportunity to “repeat” a class in a different quarter. There are a few exceptions: Band, Choir, Musical Theatre, and Creative Technology. Band is a year-long commitment for all members. Choir requires a year-long commitment for those students participating in off-campus/travel opportunities, but those students who register for one semester can still participate during the day and at school concerts. Students interested in participating in this year’s school musical, which also requires an after-school commitment, are *highly* encouraged to register for *both* Musical Theatre courses. Creative Technology includes support and participation in our daily Morning Announcements on video, which benefits from consistency in participation. These are the only Electives that may be taken more than once, as their content is continuous. ***Students who select the same Elective on Day A and B will lose their selection entirely and be placed in another Elective class of the school’s choosing based on class size.***

Can I take Band, Choir or Creative Technology all year?

Yes. These are performance-based classes. Due to its nature, Band is a required year-long commitment. If a student chooses Choir, it is recommended that they sign up for the whole year (it is required for a full year if planning to participate in off campus/travel opportunities). Creative Technology will have ongoing projects and applications that vary as the year progresses. Students in these courses will still have another Elective class that will change each quarter if they choose to participate in Band, Choir, or Creative Technology for the full year.

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Can I take Band AND Choir?

Yes. If you choose both classes for the full year, you must have parent and teacher approval. Both the Band and Choir teacher must sign your Electives Course Form. If you prefer to take Band all year and Choir for just one semester, you must select a PE and iExplore course in the two quarters that you are not enrolled in Choir (either Q1 & Q2 or Q3 & Q4). *Choir students who intend on traveling to Disneyland to perform (who are also in Band) must be in Choir for quarters 3 and 4.*

Why didn't I get all of my top choices?

We do our best to schedule you into all your top choices. Reasons for not getting your selections will more than likely be due to scheduling conflicts and when courses are offered or class caps, but may also result from not following the registration instructions.

When will I know what my classes are?

Students will know their courses when they get your class schedule at the beginning of the school year.

Will I be able to change my schedule later?

No. Once the sign-up process is completed, we cannot offer a schedule change. Please take time to make your decisions carefully and discuss it as a family, as *only school administrators are able to request changes.*

Can I take all courses in the same discipline (e.g. PE for every class, all year long)?

No, but you can select them for *most* of your choices. For instance, all students are required to participate in one section of iExplore, Art/Music, and one PE section during the course of the year (and students have a choice as to which they will take). The remaining four sections are completely of the student's preference.

Is there a cost?

Specials courses do not have a cost with the exception of Band and Choir. Band students generally will need to provide their own instruments, either through ownership or rental, however the school does have a small selection of instruments that can be rented from the district for a relatively small fee. This will be discussed in the first week of school. Choir requires the purchase of a uniform shirt. While there is no cost for the Musical Theatre Elective, there are fees associated with participating in the school musical.