

SUNSET HILLS ELECTIVES 2025-2026

IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN CHOOSING ELECTIVES:

1. You must choose at least ONE Art, ONE Music, ONE iExplore, and ONE PE 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 and will replace one of your first choices listed on your form.*
2. After you have chosen your four required courses, you may fill the rest of your schedule with courses of your choosing.
3. You are not guaranteed to receive your first choice in any subject area, but it will be considered among a variety of factors.
4. Band or Choir can satisfy your one Music course requirement (but you may choose additional Music courses if they will fit in your schedule).
5. Once Electives are selected and registered, the school will be unable to honor student/parent requests for schedule changes.
6. If your online 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, and email questions to randall.badsgard@dysart.org.

8th Grade 2025-26 Elective Course Descriptions

******BE PREPARED TO SELECT A FIRST AND SECOND CHOICE FOR DAY A, AND A FIRST AND SECOND CHOICE FOR DAY B (a total of 4 classes per quarter), AND BE CAREFUL TO NOTE THAT SOME ELECTIVES ARE NOT ALL OFFERED ON BOTH DAYS******

QUARTER 1 ELECTIVES

Net and Racquet Sports (PE)

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.

Afterglow Choir (MUSIC) *Day A only*

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. *Choir has a minimum one semester requirement* (i.e. students must register for either quarter 1 and 2 or 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). *Students who register for the whole year will still be able to participate in another different Elective each quarter.*

Coding (iEXPLORE) *Day A only*

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 the physical environment 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.

Music History - American Popular Music (MUSIC) *Day B only*

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.

Creative Technology: StopMotion/Graphic Design (iEXPLORE) *Day B only*

Students will have the opportunity to explore a variety of programs, websites, and technologies to create a portfolio of creative works, focusing on Stop Motion and Graphic Design! Students will create an animated story with art and photography, and complete the quarter with graphic design tasks, using Canva.

Band (MUSIC) * Day B only*

Students will learn to play a band instrument, read music, and play a wide variety of music throughout the school year and we will perform for a Winter and Spring Concert at Shadow Ridge High School. Also, there is a good chance that we will join Shadow Ridge High School for a half-time performance at one of their football games. Most students rent an instrument from Musical Surprise for about \$22/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 Electives. *This means students will have the opportunity to be in band up to 4 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**.*

Ceramics (ART)

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.

QUARTER 2 ELECTIVES

Striking Games (PE)

The students will be participating in various striking sports. Examples of these sports could include hockey, lacrosse, cricket, teeball, etc.... These activities will focus on cooperation and teamwork and striking skills.

Drawing (ART)

This course will introduce students to basic drawing, perspective, and sketching techniques using various media to depict a variety of subjects. Students will create drawings that demonstrate their understanding of the elements of art and principles of design.

Afterglow Choir (MUSIC) *Day A only*

A continuation of the Choir Elective. If you selected Choir for the first quarter, you must also select it for this quarter.

Musical Theatre Performance (MUSIC/ART) *Day B only*

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 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 extensive 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 (including set and costume design and stage effects). This Elective will provide additional rehearsal time for the school musical, which will be used as the basis for most instruction. *This course is offered for two quarters, and it is recommended that all students who intend to participate in the school musical register for both quarters that it is offered.* While students can choose to participate for only one quarter, the second quarter it is offered will be a continuation of the learning from the first section. *****If taken for both quarters, this course will satisfy both the Music AND Art requirement for the year due to its integration of both performance and artistic design components*****

Creative Technology: Journalism/ Photography (iEXPLORE) *Day A only*

Students will have the opportunity to explore a variety of programs, websites, and technologies to create a portfolio of creative works, focusing on journalism and photography skills. Students will learn how to conduct interviews and apply portrait photography skills to create a school newspaper.

STEM (iEXPLORE) *Day B only*

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.

Band (MUSIC) *Day B only*

This is a continuation of the Band Elective. If you selected Band as an Elective for the first quarter, you must also select it for this quarter.

QUARTER 3 ELECTIVES

Lifetime Sports/Fitness and Strategy (PE)

This course is designed to introduce the student to the games and skills associated with a variety of target activities including, but not limited to, golf, bowling, and backyard games as well as strategy games.. This course will also focus on yoga, cross fit, Tabata, kickboxing, etc...

2D Multimedia / Painting (ART) *Day A only*

This art course deals with art in both 2D/ 3-Dimensional form. A variety of mediums will be explored, which may include pencils, paint textiles, ceramics, paper mache', wire sculpture...and more! Students will participate in a wide range of experiences using both their drawing skills with multi media sculptural techniques designed to build artistic and creative confidence. Projects are designed to teach thinking skills and to include useful Art experiences.

Afterglow Choir (MUSIC) *Day A only*

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. *Choir has a minimum one semester requirement* (i.e. students must register for either quarter 1 and 2 or 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). *Students who register for the whole year will still be able to participate in another different Elective each quarter.*

Musical Theatre Arts (MUSIC/ART) *Day B only*

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 extensive 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. *This course is offered for two quarters, and it is recommended that all students who intend to participate in the school musical register for both quarters that it is offered.* While students can choose to participate for only one quarter, the second quarter it is offered will be a continuation of the learning from the

first section. *****If taken for both quarters, this course will satisfy both the Music AND Art requirement for the year due to its integration of both performance and artistic design components*****

Advanced Coding/ Robotics (iEXPLORE) *Day A only*

(This is NOT a beginner's course- coding experience is required). 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 learned about sequence, loops, functions, and conditional statements. Students will also design, build, and program robots to investigate solutions and solve problems.

Creative Technology: Video Production (iEXPLORE) *Day B only*

Students will have the opportunity to explore a variety of programs, websites, and technologies to create a portfolio of creative works, focusing on video production. Video production includes creating storyboards, online communication applications, videography skills, and video editing techniques. Students will end the course with a 30-second video that has different perspectives, voiceovers, and a unique storyline.

Band (MUSIC) *Day B only*

This is a continuation of the Band Elective. If you selected Band as an Elective for the first quarter, you must also select it for this quarter.

QUARTER 4 ELECTIVES

Territory Games (PE)

This course is designed to introduce the student to the games and skills associated with a variety of territory activities and games, which will include football, basketball, and soccer.

Stop Motion/ Art and Technology (ART) *Day B only*

Students will learn the basics of media production using the media tools of photography, film, video, audio production, and interactive media. Students apply these fundamentals by participating in hands-on group projects.

School Mural (ART) *Day A Only*

This elective is for students who want to design and paint an 8th grade celebratory mural to commemorate their last year at Sunset Hills. In this dynamic art elective, students will have the opportunity to explore the expressive medium of painting while collaborating on the design and execution of a school mural. This class is designed to inspire creativity, teamwork, and a deep appreciation for community art.

Afterglow Choir (MUSIC) *Day A only*

A continuation of the Choir Elective. If you selected Choir for the third quarter, you must also select it for this quarter.

Music History - Musical Theatre Survey (MUSIC) *Day B only*

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 course. Students will observe and explore all aspects of modern Musical Theatre, including stage, costume, and lighting design, casting, makeup, and performance. Course culminates with watching and critically evaluating a full, stage performance of an award-winning Broadway musical.

Creative Technology: Build Your Business (iEXPLORE) *Day A only*

Students will have the opportunity to explore a variety of programs, websites, and technologies to create a portfolio of creative works, focusing on creating their own business. 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 create a Craft Fair.

STEM (iEXPLORE) *Day B only*

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

Band (MUSIC) *Day B only*

This is a continuation of the Band Elective. If you selected Band as an Elective for the first quarter, you must also select it for this quarter.

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

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, one ART, and one iEXPLORE Elective. There are some exceptions to this rule:

1. Students who enroll in Choir AND Band *for the full year* are excused from taking an Art course (see "Can I take Band AND Choir" section below for a description of this schedule).
2. Students who enroll in the Musical Theatre Performance Elective for *both* quarters it is offered are not required to take an Art course

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.

Can I take Band AND Choir?

Yes and no. If you choose to do this you will be in Band all year, and you will be required to take one section of iExplore and one section of PE (in quarters 1 and 2 or 3 and 4 respectively), and will be able to be in the Choir Elective for quarters 1 and 2 or 3 and 4. *Choir students who intend on traveling to Disneyland to perform (who are also in Band) must be in Choir for quarters 3 and 4.* The one Art requirement is suspended in this case.

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 if a course fills up before you complete your registration. This is why the online registration form will ask for your first and second choices for Days A & B. If you get placed in your lowest choices, it is likely because you did not follow instructions correctly when selecting your classes.

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, one Music, one Art, 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?

Special courses/Electives 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.