



Dr. Augustine Ramirez Intermediate  
Home of the Wolves  
2020-2021 Elective Course Descriptions-8<sup>th</sup> Grade

\*\*\*\* All elective courses at Ramirez Intermediate are designed to prepare students for success in high school. Our elective offerings are rigorous, thorough, and created with a college and career focus. To this end, please understand that elective courses are not guaranteed, and schedules will not be changed in order to select a different elective.

**\*\*\* APPLICATION BASED COURSES \*\*\***

**\*\*Required applications will be available on February 25<sup>th</sup>, and can be downloaded and printed from our school's website, <https://ramirez.cnusd.k12.ca.us/>. All applications for year-long electives or special programs are due by March 27<sup>th</sup> to our school's attendance office. Please do NOT turn your application in to your current history teacher. Bring applications directly to Ramirez Intermediate's attendance office to turn them in.**

**Advanced Video Production:** This is yearlong course that incorporates the elements of art, principals of design, collaborative team work, and individual time management skills toward advancing the digital storytelling process to produce the Bi-Weekly Pack Pride TV episodes. Teams/individuals must work well independently and within a group in order to produce well-crafted and meaningful segments for Pack PRIDE TV. All interested students must submit the required application (open to 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders) **\*\*Application required. Due by March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Please turn application in at the Ramirez Intermediate attendance office.**

**I Heart Art:** : If you love art or would like to improve your skills then this is the class for you. This year long course is for students who want to explore new types of art, improve their drawing skills, and be challenged to be more creative and develop as a young artist. Students must fill out an application expressing their interest and be able to submit pictures of their artwork showing their passion for art and any art skills they have. This class is available to all students with priority given to 8<sup>th</sup> graders. This class can help students create a pathway to more advanced art classes as a high school student. **\*\*Application required. Due by March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Please turn application in at the Ramirez Intermediate attendance office.**

**ASB (Leadership)** The 8<sup>th</sup> grade ASB/Leadership class is responsible for organizing many school-wide student activities and events. ASB students give input and direction over the activities that occur throughout the school year. Working with the Ramirez PTSA, the Ramirez ASB/Leadership class also organizes community and philanthropic events. The class is a student-driven business class and all of the events we coordinate are voted upon, organized, and run by ASB students. Leadership students also learn about government, civil rights, advertising, public speaking, and personal growth through leadership. Students must apply in order to be a member of the class. **\*\*Application required. Due by March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Please turn application in at the Ramirez Intermediate attendance office.**

**AVID (College Readiness):** This college preparedness and readiness course is designed to provide academically determined students with the skills needed for success in middle school, high school and college. The AVID curriculum focuses on note taking, writing, study skills, time management, test-taking strategies, critical textbook reading, and research skills. In addition, two days each week are set aside for tutorials, where students receive academic support in math, science, language arts, and history under the leadership of trained college tutors. Highlights of the year include a multitude of college and career themed projects and activities. AVID students also take a variety of fieldtrips throughout the year- from UCLA football games to college campus tours. **\*\*Application required. Due by March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Please turn application in at the Ramirez Intermediate attendance office.**

**W.E.B. (Where Everybody Belongs):** \*\*\*\*8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students ONLY\*\*\*\*WEB is a middle school orientation and transition to middle school program that welcomes 7<sup>th</sup> graders and makes them feel comfortable throughout their first year of their middle school experience. Through this nationally recognized middle school transition

program, select members of the 8th grade class are trained to act as positive role models, mentors, and teachers who guide the 7th graders to discover what it takes to be successful in middle school. Schools have reported that the WEB middle school transition program has enhanced anti-bullying efforts, reduced discipline issues, and increased school safety, creating an improved school climate and a greater sense of connection for the whole school. This class is enthusiastic and students are dedicated to making our campus a place Where Everybody Belongs! **\*\*Application required. Due by March 27th, 2020. Please turn application in at the Ramirez Intermediate attendance office.**

**High School Spanish 1:** This is a yearlong high school level class for 8th grade students with a “B” or better grade point average and outstanding citizenship. This class is taught by use of Comprehensible Input. Students must be open to learning by speaking, listening, writing, reading and active participation. After passing this course, you will be able to take Spanish 2 as a freshman in any high school in our district. This course qualifies as an “A-G” requirement for college admission. An application and short interview are necessary. Heritage Spanish –Speakers or those from the Dual Immersion Program cannot take this course. **\*\*Application is required. Due by March 27, 2020. Please turn the application in to Sra. Meza in room D-11 before school or during second lunch. Be prepared to be interviewed at the time of the receipt of your application.**

**Yearbook:** Students accepted to this yearlong course are responsible for producing the Ramirez yearbook. Students will take photos, interview students and staff, collect important time period information and creatively organize these details onto a yearbook spread. There is a requirement to attend events after school when the coverage of those activities is necessary. **\*\*Application required. Due by March 27th, 2020. Please turn application in at the Ramirez Intermediate attendance office.**

**Howlin’ Wolves Intermediate Choir:** The Intermediate Choir is open to Ramirez students who have a small amount of singing experience and are interested in growing their skills. We will perform in concerts with our other choirs and end the school year with a performance at a theme park. This course is only open to those who complete an audition at the end of the year. **\*\*Application required. Due by March 27th, 2020. Please turn application in at the Ramirez Intermediate attendance office.**

**Howlin' Wolves Honors Choir:** The Honors Choir is for students who have had some amount of choral experience in or out of school. Students will continue to grow their musical abilities through their voices. Our Honors Choir will have the opportunity to recruit for incoming 6th graders, perform at theme parks, and go to compete against other choirs in the area. Honor’s Choir does require more extra-curricular activities. This course is only open to those who pass an audition that will be held in May. **\*\*Application required. Due by March 27th, 2020. Please turn application in at the Ramirez Intermediate attendance office.**

**Medical Explorers (Exploring Medical and Health Careers):** Have you always wondered how the heart pumps blood, how the brain makes memories, or why people get sick? If you have then this is the class for you. You will investigate how organ systems of the human body work and what careers align with each system. This is a yearlong elective for any students that are interested in medicine, science, and the human body. Come explore medical careers! Important note: Dissections and other messy activities will be conducted in class. **\*\*Application required. Due by March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Please turn application in at the Ramirez Intermediate attendance office.**

**Renaissance:** (Climate/Culture Leadership) – this yearlong elective serves to promote a positive school culture and climate by recognizing and rewarding academic excellence, including, but not limited to achievement and improvement, as well as attendance and citizenship. Renaissance strives to include each member of our staff and student population in our vision to make this campus a positive learning and working environment. Run by students but supported by a team of adults, Renaissance challenges students and staff to recognize the great things going on at Ramirez each day. We hold the responsibilities for the student store, various awarding of staff and students, academic pep rallies and much more. **\*\*Application required. Due by March 27th, 2020. Please turn application in at the Ramirez Intermediate attendance office.**

\*\*\*\* The Following Electives are Non-Application Based, and are open for selection. Due to our growing number of students, enrollment into our many elective courses is not guaranteed. We will be unable to change electives after school begins to accommodate requests. \*\*\*\*

**Art:** This is a semester long course that introduces students to a variety of different crafts including such projects as printmaking, ceramics, sculpture, collage, paper mache, and book making. Students will develop craftsmanship and learn design principles that will help them to develop as a young artist.

**Drawing and Painting:** This semester long course introduces students to the elements of art and principles of design with a focus on drawing and painting. Students will improve their skills as they learn the basics of drawing, shading, and color through different materials.

**“Red Wolves” Intermediate Band:** This course is for students who have had some band experience in elementary or private lessons. Students continue practicing fundamentals of music reading, tone quality, and technique (scales and articulation). Year-long course.

**Introduction to 3D Modeling & 3D Printing:** This course is for students that are interested in 3D modeling and 3D printing. Students will use a variety of methods to create realistic three dimensional models. In this STEM course students will use our state-of-the-art 3D printing lab to turn computer designs into physical models. This semester course is a great choice for any students who are interested in STEM pursuits in High School college or career.

**Acoustic Guitar:** This course is open to beginners only (must have good citizenship grades in previous year’s classes). You will learn the fundamentals of music; note/rhythm notation, chords, scales, proper technique, and improvisation. This class also performs at a few concerts. The school will supply acoustic guitars or you may use your own. Year-long course.

**Howlin’ Wolves Choir:** The Beginning Choir is open to all Ramirez students who are interested in singing and having a lot of fun throughout the year. We will perform in concerts with our other choirs and end the school year with a performance at a theme park.

**Intramural Sports:** Intramurals provide an arena for students to explore a variety of sports through team play and competition. This is a class for students who have knowledge of most sport skills and want to put those skills toward competitive play. Students will be expected to participate each day, have a healthy attitude toward competition, and exhibit good sportsmanship. PARTICIPATION IS A MUST! Semester-long course. *Satisfactory PE grade and citizenship required!*

**Intro to Spanish:** This is a semester long course for both 7th and 8th graders. It is for beginners and teaches the basics (Alphabet, Numbers, Adjectives, etc.) It includes very active participation, singing, and storytelling. Assessments are oral, written and done through presentations.

**Introduction to Video Production:** This semester long course explores the essentials of video production, including the elements of art, principals of design, mastery of computer operations, collaborative team work, and individual time management. Students will have the opportunity to work in small groups while filming on campus and working individually on independent projects. Students will be introduced to Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Premiere Pro CC. Emphasis will be placed planning, organization, Cinematography techniques, lighting, working with audio, and editing.

**General Music:** General music is a semester long class, open to all Ramirez students interested in learning about music in a hands-on interactive classroom setting. The class includes units on reading and writing music, clapping rhythms, singing, playing/making percussion instruments, and learning to listen to music in different ways. Students will be involved in the beginning stages of standard music notation and music composition.

**Introduction to Robotics:** This course uses the LEGO Mindstorms NXT Robotics System where students construct and program robots. Students build a variety of robots and program them to react to their

environment and solve challenges using servo motors and ultrasonic, touch, and sound sensors. Semester-long course.

**Exploring Visual Design:** This semester long course explores the digital art process utilizing Adobe Illustrator CS6. Students explore the role of the artist as a visual communicator emphasizing the elements and principles of design while creating fun and exciting digital art projects. Mastery of computer operations will further enhance the students' grasp of technology in the world of art.

**Science Olympiad and Bioethics:** Yearlong course (Science Olympiad 1st Semester and Bioethics 2nd Semester) "Science Olympiads" introduces students to the world of scientific investigation. Students are given a task, and they must find a solution through brain-storming, hypothesis testing, and reflection. Students also participate in friendly competitions to see which group developed the best designs. Students will also have the option to participate against other schools in the Inland Empire Science Olympiad held in March. "Bioethics" is a combination of two Greek words: bios, meaning "life", and ethos, meaning "behavior". Specifically, bioethics is the study of controversial topics brought about by advances in biology, medicine, and technology, and how it affects our lives. In this class, students will explore bioethic topics that are currently making headlines in today's news. After researching the topic, students will hold a debate to discuss the "pros" and "cons" of the issue at hand. This class is not a substitute for the student's regular Life Science class. Rather, it is designed to supplement the student's core science class by taking what the student has learned in class and offering "what-if?" and "what-would-you-do?" scenarios. Students will take a position on a topic and use logic and reasoning to discuss and defend their opinion.

**Intro to Mandarin (Chinese):** Mandarin class is a semester course for both 7th and 8th graders. At the end of the semester, students will be able to read in pinyin, greet people, count, introduce themselves and family members, and write dates in characters. We also do projects, cultural activities, games and songs.

**Computer Science Discoveries (CS Discoveries):** is an introductory computer science course that empowers students to create authentic artifacts and engage with computer science as a medium for creativity, communication, problem solving, and fun. In this year long course, students will study the basics of computers and logic, web development, interactive games and animation, the design process, data and society, and the internet.

**Intro to Journalism:** This is a semester long course that will help students to explore journalistic writing. We will read and interpret the writer's purpose and audience in mediums such as newspapers, magazines, and online posts. Students will also learn to develop their own opinions and ways to effectively communicate through written work and pictures/graphics.

Corona Norco Unified School District is committed to equal opportunity for all individuals in education and in employment and does not discriminate on the basis of actual or perceived ancestry, age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, immigration status, race or ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, pregnancy, parental/ marital or family status, primary language, social class, geographical location, or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics. The Board prohibits, at any district school or school activity, unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying of any student based on the student's actual race, color, ancestry, national origin, ethnic group identification, age, religion, marital or parental status, immigration status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or gender expression; the perception of one or more of such characteristics; or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics. (CNUSD AB300, BP1321, BP5145, BP/AR4301, BP/AR5208, BP5146)

For any concerns or questions regarding discrimination, equity or Title IX, please contact:

Cyndy Erman, Coordinator, Human Resources. Corona-Norco Unified School District. 2820 Clark Avenue. Norco, CA 92860 (951) 736-5000 [cerman@cnusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:cerman@cnusd.k12.ca.us)