**Middle School Curriculum Requirements:** Over a two-year period each student is required to take English, social studies, science, and math every term. Physical education is required to be taken two terms per year. Along with these CORE requirements students are also encouraged to take at least one term each in the exploratory areas of career and technology education, visual arts, the performing arts, and a variety of general electives. Seventh grade students are required to take one term of Computer Tools. Most electives are term length with the exception of band (4 terms) and choir (2 terms). We also offer support classes in math and reading that students may be placed in based on academic need.

Following are brief descriptions of the courses offered in the exploratory/elective areas.

**Performing Arts**

**Choir**
Students will have many opportunities to improve their singing skills by performing a wide variety of music from the recent past to the present. Students may present concerts to the public. This is a combo high school/middle school class and may be taken for high school credit. **This is a semester long class.**

**Drama**
Students will participate in monologues, pantomimes and other drills in class to help them develop skills in the dramatic arts.

**Band**
The Wind River Middle School band program is open to any student who has one or more years’ experience on a band instrument. Beginners may also join with the instructor’s approval. Students will have many opportunities to improve their musical skills by performing a wide variety of music from the 1500’s to present. Students present numerous concerts to the public throughout the year. **Students are required to attend concerts** and practice at home. **Band runs all year.**

**Career and Technology Education**

**Tech Ed 1**
While learning the importance of working in a safe cooperative environment, 7th & 8th graders will explore the four basic areas and functions of technology. Students will learn how to safely work with hand tools, power tools and machinery. They will follow a plan to build and test a model catapult and design and build the lightest tower capable of holding the most amount of weight, thus determining its efficiency rating.

**Tech Ed 2**
While learning the importance of working in a safe cooperative environment, 7th & 8th graders will investigate the four basic areas and functions of technology. Students will learn how to safely work with hand tools, power tools, and machines. Students will design and build a model bridge, and test its efficiency rating.
Tech Ed 3
While working in a safe cooperative environment, 7th and 8th graders will delve into the four basic areas of technology. Students will learn how to safely work with hand tools, power tools and machines. Students will follow a plan to build a rocket and launch it.

Tech Ed 4
While working in a safe cooperative environment 7th and 8th graders will review the four basic areas of technology. Students will review how to safely work with hand tools, power tools and machinery. Students will learn to follow directions to design their own model CO2 car and race against their classmates to see which are the most efficient.

Introduction to Robotics
Students will learn the basics of robotics through a robotics kit. This is a new course being developed for next year. A better description will be available as soon as possible.

Art Courses

Animation
Learn how animation is made and practice drawing skills and creating short animations. Students will learn the basics of stop motion animation as well as simple computer animation.

Crafts
Crafting projects like cross stitch, knitting, scrap booking etc. (material fee)

Drawing & Painting
Before anyone can become a good artist, he/she must first understand the preliminary principles of art. This is a class designed to teach students the techniques of drawing with a little painting thrown in. Students will also learn to critique artwork.

Media Exploration
This is a course where artist will explore the different media used in art. This is a new course being developed for next year. A better description will be available as soon as possible.

Graphic Design & Cartooning
Student will be using technology tools for graphic design as well as learning the basics of cartooning. This is a new course being developed for next year. A better description will be available as soon as possible.

Art of Engineering
Students will have the opportunity to learn how art and engineering are related. This is a new course being developed for next year. A better description will be available as soon as possible.

Computers & Technology

The Essentials of Photography
Students will work toward the completion of a portfolio, which will include report pieces on the different aspects of quality photography. Students will work with digital cameras and learn computer editing.
Wind River Middle School Elective Course Guide

Computer Tools
This class will focus on using the computer as an educational tool. Touch-typing will be a daily exercise. Other areas of focus will be using the Internet as a research tool, creating rich documents in Microsoft Word, and using Excel to create charts and graphs. (Required for 7th grade)

Publications
Concepts about publishing with newspaper as a backdrop

Academic Support

AVID
AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is a program dedicated to helping students achieve their goals of going to college or other post-secondary options, by providing academic assistance and extra encouragement for post-secondary success. Students considered for AVID are bright students who might need extra support to reach their college dreams and may include students who are typically underserved in the college system or the first in their family to attend a 4-year college or university.

Homework Help and Academic Support
Are you looking for a structured time to work on homework, get support with areas like math, ELA and social studies?

Math Support
Do you need some extra support to help you succeed in your math class?

Fitness

Individual Fitness
This class is for students who want to get serious about getting fit but do not necessarily enjoy competitive sports or games. Emphasis will be on walking, strength training and flexibility. We walk rain or shine!

Yoga
Yoga Class is designed to appeal to the developmental needs and abilities specific to our teens. Through yoga we will explore themes such as finding strength, balance and coming to understand how they relate to self-awareness and self-esteem and self-confidence. Classes are designed to make learning fun and to enable students to take their lessons of the mat and into their home and school life. Classes begin with a discussion of the theme, followed by breathing techniques, asana instruction, guided rest and yoga journaling. The intention of this class is to help students find comfort and confidence with themselves through yoga breath work and an introduction to mindfulness.

Sports Conditioning
Students will be introduced to proper weight lifting techniques and exercises in order to increase strength so that they may compete in high school sports. Students will also be exposed to an array of other exercises including push-ups, sit-ups, crunches, planks, pull-ups, etc. Jump ropes will also be used and, weather permitting, students will be timed in the mile and exposed to some outside conditioning to improve speed.
**Social Development**

**Student Leadership**
Want to be an effective leader of your class? What skills make a good leader progress into an excellent leader? Wish to be an outstanding leader on your athletic team? Want to make a difference within the school? Put your ideas into action utilizing the class time to make a difference in the school. Explore and research personality traits and the qualities needed for effective leadership. The goal of the course is to improve the school climate, to make a positive difference in people's lives and to improve the relationship between the community and the school. (Highly recommended for ASB officers and representatives)

**G.L.A.M. (Girls Leading, Achieving and Motivated)**
The goal of the class is to promote leadership and social skills while fostering positive and respectful relationships, and to guide young women to become powerful leaders both on and off campus. This elective will emphasize collaboration and developing a positive self-image. We will explore female stereotypes in the media (from teen magazines to TV), and learn about young women doing exciting things (from singers to scientists). We will explore teen girl issues and conflicts by taking risks and promoting self-understanding.

**B.L.A.M. (Boys Leading, Achieving and Motivated)**
The goal of the class is to promote leadership and social skills while fostering positive and respectful relationships, and to guide young men to become powerful leaders both on and off campus. We will explore male stereotypes in media and tackle teen issues by taking risks and promoting self-understanding.

**Social Studies**

**Music Appreciation**
Student will have opportunities to learn about unfamiliar music as well as learn more about familiar music. We will spend time on music from other areas of the country and the world. Classical music will be explored along with popular music. Listening and communication skills will be challenged.

**Popular Culture & You**
Students will explore the world of pop culture and how it impacts their lives. A heavy emphasis will be place on the use critical thinking skills. This is a new course being developed for next year. A better description will be available as soon as possible.

**History of Rock and Roll**
Students will explore the history of rock and roll in a fun and interactive way.

**ZOMBIE-BASED GEOGRAPHY**
When the zombies attack, where should we run, where should we regroup, and where should we rebuild our lives? Those questions, key to survival, can focus student attention on a highly motivating and dangerously overlooked fact: Geography skills can save you from the zombie apocalypse!

**Pacific NW Life**
We live in one of the most beautiful areas on the planet but how much do we know about our local region? Sign up to learn about poison oak, the history behind the Bridge of the Gods, local geography, and wildlife and more.