

The background of the image is a photograph of Amherst Middle School. The building is a two-story brick structure with a large sign on the upper left that reads "AMHERST MIDDLE SCHOOL". A blue circular logo is visible on the building's facade. The sky is blue with some white clouds. The text "AMS" is superimposed in large red letters at the top, and "23-24 Elective Course Offerings" is superimposed in larger red letters below it.

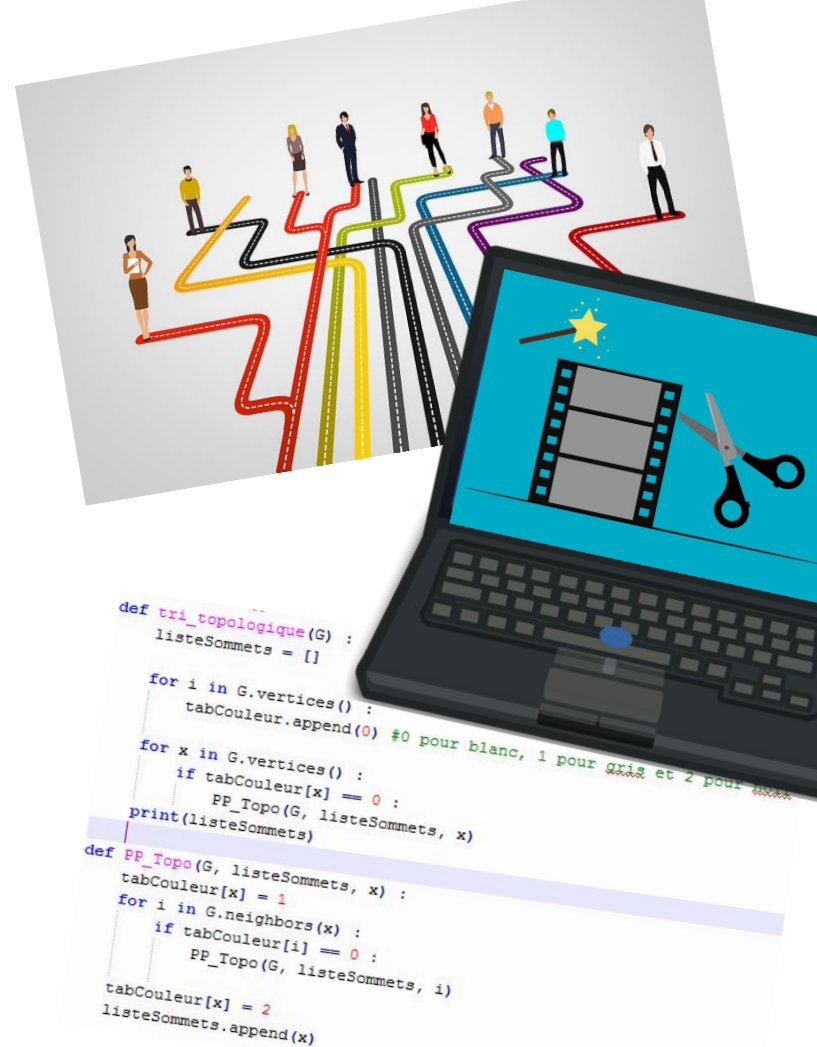
# **AMS**

# **23-24 Elective**

# **Course Offerings**

# Digital Tech 8

Interested in learning more about technology? Join us for Digital Tech 8 where we'll explore a variety of real world digital tools! You'll have opportunities to create websites, videos, control a computer with code, and more! Learn more about how computers are used in a variety of careers, while also exploring digital citizenship and digital identity. Educational technology skills are embedded throughout the course and an emphasis is placed on creative problem solving skills that are fundamental to computer science!



# Coding FUNdamentals (7th or 8th)



Ready to take your coding skills to the next level? Interested in learning how to program games instead of just playing them? Coding FUNdamentals is an introductory computer science course that emphasizes problem-solving, creative thinking, creation and collaboration through coding and gamified learning.

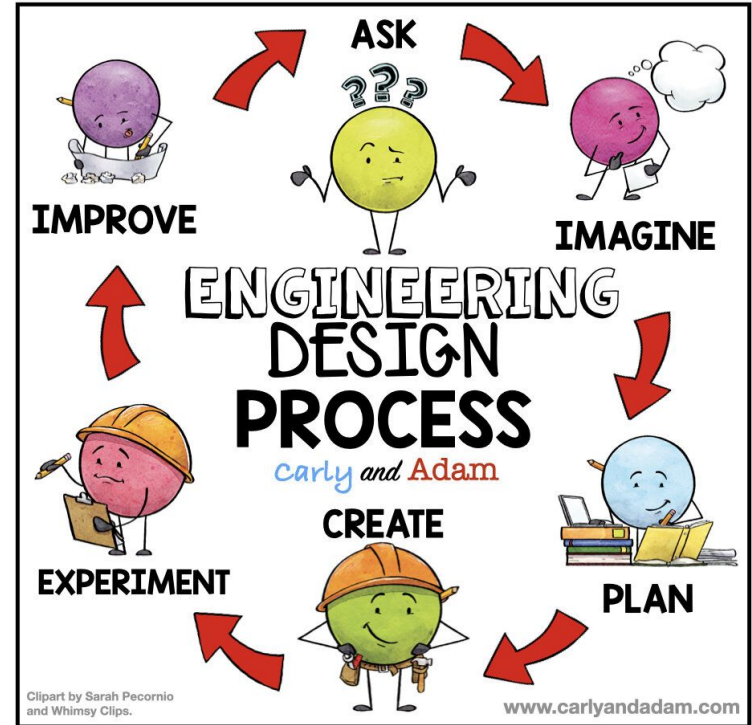
# Yearbook (8th only)

Are you looking for an opportunity to practice real world digital skills while producing a creative and tangible product? Then sign up for Yearbook! You'll learn skills like page design, editing, collaboration and leadership all while producing a unique yearbook that records all kinds of school memories and events. You will be integral in the planning, creation, sales and marketing of the yearbook, while interacting with students and staff to make your ideas come to life!



# Intro to Engineering Design (7th and 8th)

Interested in problem-solving?  
Wondering how people make their dreams and ideas into real products?  
Learn how to approach the problems and challenges of everyday life using the Engineering Process. This class will focus on both the process as well as creating solutions based on your own ideas. Be ready to unleash your creativity, and fail often-it's all part of the process!



# Intro to Video (7th and 8th)

Interested in creating and editing your own videos? Not sure where to start? Check out our elective “Intro to Video”. We’ll explore the tools used to capture video, tips and tricks for getting the best composition and basic video editing and even use a green screen. Communication and collaboration are *essential* elements of success in our intro to video class. No experience necessary!



# FACS Experience (7th or 8th)



Do you love to cook, create, and visualize your life in the real world? Welcome to the FCS experience! In this class you will learn all about **Personal Finance** and plan for your future self. In **Fabric Arts**, you will learn how to use the sewing machine to make an individual project. In the **Cooking** Unit you will learn pro techniques, and practice with collaborative cooking labs. Perfect your skills with the Design a Dinner Party Project. Get ready to learn lots of important life skills!



# Venture Adventure (8th only, must have had FCS in 7th)



Have you ever wanted to start a business and make some money? This class is for you! You will learn all the ins & outs of being a successful entrepreneur. We will create a business plan, a product to sell, market and advertise, and hopefully turn a profit! This class will also include a **Fabric Arts Unit** to make the drawstring backpack and a **Baking 101 Unit**, where we will bake everything from cookies, breads, pastry to cupcakes and cake decorating.



# Innovation and Design 8



Learn about electricity - learn about electronics, schematic diagrams, basic wiring, and Ohm's law. Use breadboards, wire, LEDs, switches, resistors and potentiometers to physically wire basic circuits (as needed).

Use a program a Smart House, powered by a Raspberry Pi. Breadboard your design (prototype) then implement it in a smart house!

Learn coding in a programming language, and work through fun challenges. The programming concepts of sequencing, loops, conditionals, and functions help develop problem-solving skills (as needed to control the Smart House).

Learn a 3D drafting program and use the drafting program to create 3d models. Then use the 3d printer to print a 3d design of your own creation.

Learn a 2d drawing program. Create your own designs that can be engraved using the CNC laser.



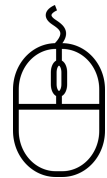
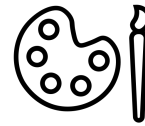
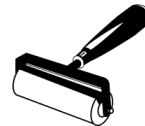
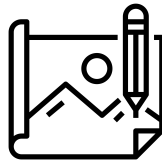
# Art Experience 8

Let's Make Art! We'll do a variety of 2D and 3D projects as we look at contemporary artists, learn about art careers and do more technically challenging projects.

An exploratory class designed to help improve students' basic art skills; drawing, painting and design artwork using a variety of media and techniques, develop students' creativity and self-expression, and recognize and use the art elements (line, shape, color, value, form, texture and space), and design principles (rhythm, balance, proportion, variety, emphasis, harmony and unity).

This course is open to all students who would like to participate in a fun and creative atmosphere.

**We'll  
Do:**



# Ceramics (8th only)

This class will introduce students to building with clay. Focus will be on handbuilding techniques; pinch, coil, slab. Students will also have an opportunity to experience the potter's wheel. Creativity and quality craftsmanship are emphasized. Students will learn the basic vocabulary of ceramics as well as methods of surface treatment, firing and other related aspects. Art history, aesthetics and art criticism will be incorporated through the course.



# Printmaking (7th or 8th)

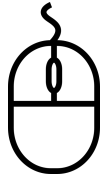
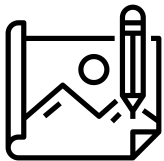
NOTE: This class cannot be taken if you have already taken 7th grade "Graphic Design and Printmaking"

Welcome printmakers! In this course you'll get a little messy as you experiment with stamping, carving, inking and printing your art!

We'll do a little bit of everything: create cards, books and even silkscreen our own products.

This course is good for someone who would like a hands-on art experience where you will do non traditional art projects and may get messy.

**We'll  
Do:**



# Graphic Design (7th or 8th)

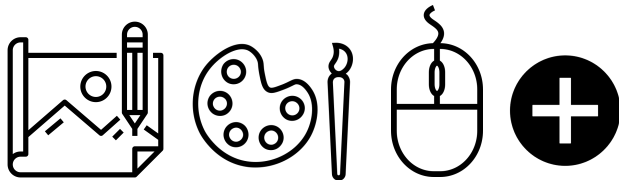
NOTE: This class cannot be taken if you have already taken 7th grade "Graphic Design and Printmaking"

Welcome to the AMS Design Team! In this course you'll create innovative art for real clients as we learn what an illustrator and graphic designer does.

We'll do a little bit of everything: drawing, illustration, computer art, and even silkscreen our own products.

This is a course is good for someone who wants to learn about art as a career and work with words and pictures to create useful art.

**We'll  
Do:**



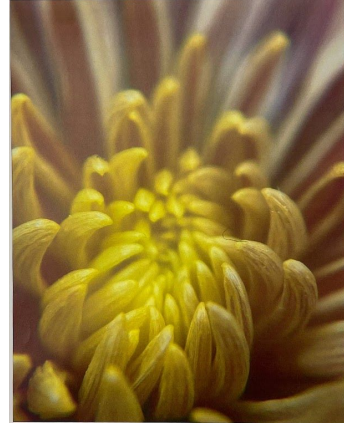
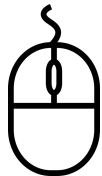
# Photography (7th or 8th)

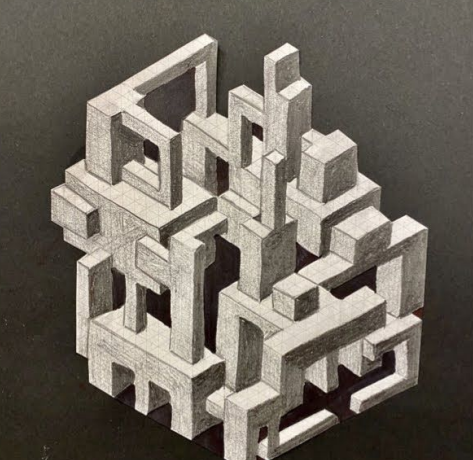
Do you like taking pictures with your camera? In this course you'll learn more about the world of photography as you challenge yourself to move beyond

We'll do both in class (studio) photography and head outside to explore nature photography as we learn about composition, history, framing and more.

This is a course is good for someone who wants to learn more about the world of photography and push themselves to try new things and take better photos.

**We'll  
Do:**





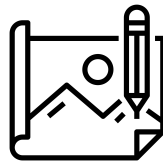
# Drawing FUNdamentals (7th or 8th)

Drawing is the basis for all forms of art and we'll have fun as we explore line, texture, shading and more to create 2-dimensional works of art. We'll do some fun and silly drawing and more serious stuff as we learn about face and body proportions, technical drawing, and learn how to enlarge our work using a grid system.

Art tools we will use are: graphite, charcoal, colored pencils markers and pastels.

This is a course that explores drawing basics and is good for someone who wants to get better at all forms of art.

**We'll  
Do:**



# Music Technology (7th or 8th)



Students in Music Technology will survey recording technology, public address systems and digital music creation. We will explore some of the same types of equipment used in concert venues and recording studios around the world. In creating digital music, we will use software similar to what is used by many of today's top artists.

# Guitar exploration (7th or 8th)

Students in Guitar Exploration will learn the basics of acoustic guitar in various musical styles. No experience is necessary, though experienced students will have the opportunity to explore advanced techniques.



## Guitar 2 (8th w/ prior completion of Guitar Exploration)

Continuing guitar elective.  
Students should have either successfully completed Guitar Exploration or currently play guitar or bass at an intermediate level (requires permission of instructor).

