

*Preston*  
*Pumas*



8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
COURSE DESCRIPTION  
HANDBOOK

# PRESTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

4901 Corbett Drive  
Fort Collins, Colorado 80528  
(970) 488-7300  
Fax: (970) 488-7307  
Attendance: (970) 490-3059

**Principal**  
Amy Schmer

**Dean of Students**  
Kyle Healy

**Counselor**  
Becci Kirby

**Assistant Principal**  
Lindsey Matkin  
Bill Saint

## PRESTON VISION

The Preston School Community prepares students to become successful, contributing members of a changing society.

## PRESTON MISSION

The Preston School Community teaches necessary skills and content knowledge within a positive, productive learning environment.

- All students have the right to learn
- All teachers have the right to teach
- All students learn at their own developmental pace
- All learning is a life-long process
- All learning will include the essential skills of:
  - Organization
  - Communication
  - Problem Solving
  - Information Accessing

## SCHOOL DISTRICT AND COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS

Fort Collins, Colorado, located 65 miles north of Denver, has an urban population of over 110,000. Colorado State University, Front Range Community College and Poudre School District are some of the major employers of the community. Poudre School District includes 31 elementary schools, 11 middle schools, 7 high schools, and growing numbers of charter and alternative schools. The total enrollment for Poudre School District is approximately 24,000 with an instructional staff of approximately 4,000.

## PRESTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

- A 3-year middle school (6 - 8)
- Accelerated Courses -- Mathematics; Foreign Language; English 8/GT.
- Standards Based Grading.
- Extra curricular activities -- 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade football, softball, basketball, wrestling, tennis, golf, volleyball, cross country, and track & field. Math Counts, Science Olympiad, Lego Robotics, Jazz Band, Science Bowl, Rocketry, Forensics & Debate and Outdoor Club.
- School Mascot -- Puma.
- School colors -- purple, black and teal.
- Enrollment – 1,150 (grades 6 - 8).
- Primary feeder elementary schools – Bacon, Bethke, Kruse, Timnath, Werner, Zach.

- High School attendance area -- Fossil Ridge High School.
  - Class Size -- Typical class size is 27-33.
- 

## **8<sup>th</sup> GRADERS INTERESTED IN PURSUING SCHOOL CHOICE FOR HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS**

A recent Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) rule could impact your student's eligibility. Once a student attends or participates at a high school in sports and/or academics that becomes in effect their home school. Should at any later date the student choose to "School of Choice" to a different school or return to what was their "home school" based on place of residency, they will lose 50% of their varsity athletic eligibility in sports in which they have participated.

This means that before the School Choice cutoff date of January 30, 2009, 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and their parents should be certain that the high school they have chosen to attend beginning with their 9<sup>th</sup> grade is in fact the school they want to attend for the next four years to avoid losing eligibility.

Should you have any questions regarding this CHSAA rule, please contact your student's counselor or PSD Athletic Coordinator, Sandi Martin – 490-3106.

---

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT CLASS FEES AND MATERIAL COSTS**

Please note that some classes require fees or associated costs for labs, materials, etc. These funds help us in providing enhanced opportunities for our students. **Free and reduced lunch students may have these fees waived.** Please contact your child's counselor if you would like assistance with these costs.

---

## **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

For information regarding Graduation Requirements and PSD Policy please review the district policy at:  
<https://www.psdschools.org/sites/psd.psdschools.org/files/PSD/policies//IKF-3.pdf> the Spring.

---

## **Mandatory Opt-Out for Courses Repeated**

A student who repeats the same course where high school credit was earned as a middle school student automatically triggers a mandatory opt-out for the original year grade record for that course. The original year credit and grade are permanently removed. The most recent year credit and grade earned for the repeated course remains as the permanent record.

---

## **REQUIRED CORE CLASSES**

***All core classes are taught with Pre AP strategies.***

Preston Middle School utilizes Pre-Advanced Placement strategies school-wide, to support and challenge students. The use of these strategies allows for our students to practice higher level thinking when they enter high school, reading and writing that can prepare them to enroll in Advanced Placement or Honors courses. Preston continues to have high expectations for academics and encourages students to push themselves. College Board strategies help us to attain this goal.

### ***LANGUAGE ARTS***

#### **LA812 Eng/LanguageArts 8 PreAP**

*Grade 8 Year Long*

Pre-AP English 8 is based upon the same curriculum and standards as English 8, but is designed to emphasize the skills and habits of mind that will be needed to take Advanced Placement English courses and the Advanced Placement exam. Students will be challenged to do more with literary comparison, composition, and the higher order thinking skills of analysis, synthesis and evaluation. Eighth grade English course content is covered in greater depth and with more insight.

### ***SCIENCE***

#### **SC822 Science 8 PreAP**

*Grade 8 Year Long*

This course is designed for all students and is the second of two courses that meets the Colorado State and Poudre School District Content Standards for Science grades 5 - 8. The major topics covered in the 8th grade course are: Chemical Properties of Matter, Motion and Energy, Geophysics and Geology, Chemistry, Chemical Cycles, Environmental Biology and Space Science. This is a required course for all 8th graders.

### ***SOCIAL STUDIES***

#### **SS832 Social Studies 8 PreAP**

*Grade 8 Year Long*

The AP Prep Social Studies course will teach students how to organize and to analyze historical information. This course requires extensive reading, writing, research and participation. The course content includes the following units: Exploration and Settlement, Development of Constitutional America, The Expanding Nation and the U.S. Comes of Age in the 20th century. This course is intended to prepare students to take the Advanced Placement U.S. History Course in high school as well as the AP U.S Government and Politics course.

### ***MATHEMATICS***

#### **0840 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Mathematics**

*Year Long*

In 8th grade, students will build upon their knowledge and understanding of generating equivalent expressions, ratios and proportions, exponents, and volume of prisms gained in 6th and 7th grade.

In this course, students will apply their knowledge of expressions both algebraically and geometrically. Students will explore congruence and similarity of figures in the coordinate plane and write algebraic expressions to describe the transformations. Students will use their knowledge of generating equivalent expressions to solve single-variable linear equations. They will analyze the solution set to include one solution, no solutions, and infinitely many solutions. Students will build upon their understanding of proportional relationships to create linear functions in a graph, table of values, equation, and story problem. They will then examine the similarities and differences between linear and non-linear models, exploring the commonalities and differences among rational and irrational numbers. Students will approximate the location of simple square and cube root values on a number line. Students will expand upon their understanding of volume of prisms to know and apply the formulas for volume of cylinders, cones, and spheres. Students will apply their knowledge of linear relationships to analyze and make conjectures about two-way data displays, tying together the components of this course. The 8th grade standards have been divided into six critical areas, or units, as follows.

### **6230 Algebra 1**

*Year Long*

Recommended Pre-requisite: successful completion of Connected Math 3 Concepts and skills are introduced contextually in algebraic, graphic, numeric, and verbal form. As a result, the student will be able to communicate mathematically, make connections within algebra, and between algebra and other disciplines. To address district and state standards, this course interweaves mathematical topics of algebra, geometry, statistics, probability, number systems, and measurement. Algebra 1 explores rational numbers, equations, Pythagorean Theorem and radical expressions, functional relationships, basic geometry review, data analysis, probability, inequalities, linear functions, systems of equations, exponents, polynomial functions, and quadratic functions. Grade: 6-8 Recommended Pre-requisite: successful completion of Connected Math 2 or Connected Math 2 Accelerated and teacher recommendation Algebra 1 taken before high school is designed for accelerated middle school students. This course combines Connected Math 3 and Algebra 1 resources to allow students to take the equivalent of two courses in one year. Upon successful completion, students will progress to Geometry.

### **6240 Geometry**

*Year Long*

Recommended Prerequisite: successful completion of Algebra 1 or Connected Algebra 1. Geometry concepts and logical reasoning are emphasized, while measurement and applications are integrated to motivate students via real-world connections. As a result, students will be able to communicate mathematically, make connections within geometry, and between geometry and other disciplines. To address district and state standards, this course interweaves mathematical topics of algebra, geometry, statistics, probability, number systems, and measurement. Geometry explores reasoning and proof, parallel and perpendicular lines, triangle congruency and relationships, right triangle relationships and trigonometry, quadrilaterals, similarity, area, volume, circles, and transformations. Upon successful completion, students will progress to Algebra 2.

### **6250 Algebra 2**

*Semester*

Recommended Prerequisite: successful completion of Geometry or Integrated 2. This course is a further exploration of the algebra of the real number system with an extension to the complex system as well as continued development of problem-solving skills. As a result students will be able to communicate mathematically make connections within algebra and between algebra and other disciplines. This course interweaves mathematical topics of algebra

geometry statistics probability number systems and measurement. Algebra 2 explores functional relationships linear systems of equations matrices quadratic functions polynomial functions radical functions exponential and logarithmic functions rational functions probability and statistics sequences and series and trigonometry. Upon successful completion students can progress to either Pre-Calculus or AP Statistics.

## *PHYSICAL EDUCATION*

### **3525 Physical Education 8**

*Grade 8*

*Semester*

This course offered in both 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> semester changes according to appropriateness of activities in fall (1<sup>st</sup> semester) and spring (2<sup>nd</sup> semester). Physical activities are similar to seventh grades, but motor skills are further refined and new lead-up activities offered as it fits the eighth-grade student. Scoliosis screening occurs during the year, accomplished by PSD nursing and physical education staff. THE RECOMMENDED PRESTON P.E. T-SHIRT IS AVAILABLE AT COST THROUGH THE P.E. DEPARTMENT.

## *MUSIC*

### **2552 Women's Choir**

*Grades 7 & 8*

*Year Long*

This group is open to soprano and alto voices and performs music of intermediate difficulty which prepares students for further advanced study in music. This group may perform at school and in the community. Performances are required.

### **2553 Men's Choir**

*Grades 7 & 8*

*Year Long*

This group is open to tenor and bass voices and performs music of intermediate difficulty which prepares students for further advanced study in music. This group may perform at school and in the community. Performances are required.

### **2610 Symphonic Band**

*Grade 8*

*Year Long*

Enrollment is by instructor approval or upon successful completion of intermediate band. The class involves a continuation of music fundamentals taught at the beginning and intermediate levels. Principal players of most sections may be asked to participate in symphony orchestra twice a week. Advanced playing techniques are developed through rehearsal and performances. Participation in Advanced Band is a prerequisite for high school band. Performances are required.

### **2620 Symphonic Orchestra**

*Grade 8*

*Year Long*

This course is designed for intermediate as well as advanced string players. Advanced techniques of bowing fingering and tone production are pursued through the study of music ranging from Early Baroque through contemporary and popular styles. The group performs both as a string ensemble and as a symphony orchestra by combining woodwinds brass and percussion from the Advanced Ban. Performances are required.

## *WORLD LANGUAGES*

Must be proficient on CMAS reading and writing and have successfully completed level 1A (A/B)

**4709 French Level 1B***Grade 8**Year Long*

Students are introduced to more vocabulary and structures during the second part of a 2-part course. Activities include dialogs, novice readings, listening selections, and written communication. Students experience language through the study of cultures, while making connections and comparisons to their native language and developing communication skills in the target language. The study of a world language prepares students to compete in a global community!

**4719 German Level 1B***Grade 8**Year Long*

Students are introduced to more vocabulary and structures during the second part of a 2-part course. Activities include dialogs, novice readings, listening selections, and written communication. Students experience language through the study of cultures, while making connections and comparisons to their native language and developing communications skills in the target language. The study of a world language prepares students to compete in a global community!

**4729 Spanish Level 1B***Grade 8**Year Long*

Students are introduced to more vocabulary and structures during the second part of a 2-part course. Activities include dialogs, novice readings, listening selections, and written communication. Students experience language through the study of cultures, while making connections and comparisons to their native language and developing communications skills in the target language. The study of a world language prepares students to compete in a global community!

## *Semester & Year Long Electives*

**1020 Art 1***Fee associated**Grades 7 & 8**Semester*

This course offers further development of the elements of art and the principles of design. A wide variety of art activities are designed to increase the student's knowledge of art media, techniques, terminology, and appreciation of aesthetics and art styles. Critical thinking skills are emphasized as students do drawings, paintings, sculpture, printmaking, ceramics, fiber projects and computer graphics.

**1045 Pottery & Sculpture***Grades 7 & 8**Semester*

Pottery and Sculpture is a one-semester class directed toward introducing students to three-dimensional methods of creating art. The class begins by studying the element and principles of design and how they are applied to 3-D works of art.

**1050 Crafts***Fee associated**Grades 7 & 8**Semester*

This course offers the student opportunities to design and create functional hand-crafted products which may include clay, wood, leather, plastics, beading, fibers, metal and printmaking. The history and culture of crafts is studied.

**1270 Jewelry***Fee associated**Grades 7 & 8**Semester*

The students will observe and interpret metals and non-metals through experimentation. Planning of designs utilize the skills of sawing forging cold connections soldering castin surface enrichment and other beginning jewelry techniques may be explored. The history and aesthetics of jewelry will be studied. Wire metal (nickel silver brass copper and sterling silver) wood fibers and stones may be used. The process of casting is also introduced. Design and craftsmanship are emphasized. Drawing is strongly recommended before taking the course.

**1280 Painting**                      *Fee associated*                      *Grades 7 & 8*                      *Semester*

This course covers the basic materials and methods of painting. The students will learn to work with watercolor acrylic and tempera. Emphasis will be on understanding color relationships creative expression and recognizing the impact of our artistic heritage. Drawing is strongly recommended before taking this course.

**1300MS Digital Photography**                      *Grades 7 & 8*                      *Semester*

In the digital photography and graphic design lessons students begin by learning general photographic concepts. Composition skills are added to photographs and image-editing techniques are practiced. Students learn how to use layers crop images implement color and lighting concepts such as hue saturation exposures and special effects. Graphic design artistic elements and software skills are taught while producing graphic images. The concept of design as a manner of visual communication is carried throughout. Students build a portfolio of work and explore the fields of photography graphic arts advertising and illustration.

**1650 Computer Science Exploration**                      *Grades 7 & 8*                      *Semester*

This course includes the computer knowledge all middle-schoolers need for success in a changing world. Students will learn how computers work and can be used as tools to solve problems. We will explore how computers store and use information and how computer hardware works with software. We will understand how the World Wide Web functions and design our own webpages by coding them. We'll also learn a text-based programming language and use it to solve problems, create animations, and code computer games. This course helps students prepare for future computer classes in high school and college.

**1660 Electronics**                      *Grades 7 & 8*                      *Semester*

This course introduces students to inventing with programmable electronics. We will start with basic principles of electricity and energy, and then make original, interactive creations that include light, sound, and motion. We will also study careers and lifelong applications of energy and electronics. Topics of study include: electricity and magnetism, circuits, scientific processes such as taking measurements and recording data, bread boarding and prototyping, programming circuits, troubleshooting, and making something new that has never been invented before!

**1989 International Foods**                      *Fee associated*                      *Grades 7 & 8*                      *Semester*

This class will study culture, geography and agricultural influences of food. We will study countries of heritage and plan and prepare foods for the classroom from these cultures. The study of influences of our food choices will include: family and culture, friends, religious beliefs, emotions, advertising, lifestyle and consumer choice. Prerequisite: Creative Foods and the Food Service Industry.

**2003 Robotics Engineering 1**                      *Grades 7 & 8*                      *Semester*

Robotics Engineering 1 is a semester long class designed to introduce the basics of robotics as it teaches science technology engineering and mathematics (STEM). Students will learn how to use information from sensors, applied mathematics and measurement to program their robot to perform in a series of environments. They will have the opportunity to complete multiple investigations involving guided research, problem solving, working in teams and documenting what they've learned as they investigate how robots make decisions to navigate their environment. As students become familiar with the programming and the NXT hardware, they may progress at their own pace allowing for differentiation in student abilities and learning styles. Interactive, hands-on learning is the structure of this class. This course is a pre-cursor to the high school robotics program and a part of the K-12 robotics articulation.



**2012 3D Modeling and Design***Grades 7 & 8**Semester*

3D Modeling and Design allows students to learn how the design process works through engineering and design activities. Drafting, both manual and computer-aided, will be examined in this course. With the use of the fabrication lab, the learner will design and build projects. We will experiment with aerodynamics while designing balsa wood race cars, and calculate their distance and velocity. By learning how to use the Solid works program, students will produce plastic models using a state of the art three dimensional printer.

**2013 Aviation and Aerospace***Grades 7 & 8**Semester*

Aviation and Aerospace is a STEM based course, where students will learn the basics of flight. We will explore how aviation technology has impacted our society. Students will examine the properties of air, weight, distribution, and pressure as they attempt to build gliders and small airplanes. While designing solid-fueled rockets, the student will investigate the forces that effect rockets. Lighter-than-air vehicles will also be introduced as the students study buoyancy through investigative research and data collection. There will also be an opportunity to learn how to fly an actual plane while working with our flight simulator program. A field trip to the Air and Space museum in Denver is also a possibility for the course.

**4021 Creative Foods***Fee associated**Grades 7 & 8**Semester*

This hands on course will develop skills in nutrition and wellness as well as food preparation. Areas of study will include: food safety and sanitation, kitchen safety, food production, nutrition and wellness, meal planning, and practical application with food labs. This course will also include career exploration in the food and hospitality industry.

**4026 Interior Design Exploration***Fee associated**Grades 7 & 8**Semester*

This hands-on course will help the beginning interior designer learn about the fundamentals of design in order to design functional floorplans and improve traffic flow. Students will design and create inexpensive room accessories, and plan out their "dream room." As a final project, students will put their new skills to work by redesigning a room at Preston, complete with client interviews and implementing their changes!

**4027 Fashion Design Exploration***Fee associated**Grades 7 & 8**Semester*

This course will help the beginning fashion designer discover the elements and principles of design, stay current on fashion trends and terms, learn the basics of sketching/design, and construct a simple garment.

**4050 Outdoor Living***Fee associated**Grades 7 & 8**Semester*

This course is for the student who enjoys and appreciates outdoor activities. Topics include: safe outdoor living/survival skills, environmental ethics (rules), preparations for outdoor living, shopping smarts, recreational/leisure choices, and career resources. Class activities will encourage the student to develop new interests for leisure time.

**5070 Drama***Grades 7 & 8**Semester*

This one-semester course is designed to introduce and/or improve basic acting skills. Techniques to develop and practice creative imagination and self-discipline will be employed through such classroom activities as character creation and interpretation, improvisation, pantomime, and oral interpretation. Students have the opportunity to perform for others.

**5130 Yearbook***Grades 7 & 8**Year*

Yearbook covers all phases of yearbook production. Students learn to design layouts, write copy, organize materials, select photographs, and function as a cooperative member of a publications staff.

**6023 Adventure Education**

*Grades 7 & 8*

*Semester*

This course offers students a chance to explore alternative nontraditional sports including bicycling, street hockey, kayaking, scuba diving, frisbee golf and rock climbing. Requirements for the class are a positive attitude and willingness to try new activities. Students must be able to bring a bike to school during those units. This class may only be taken one time. There will be an activities fee associated with this class.

**6530A Science Adventures – Zoology**

*Grades 7 & 8*

*Semester*

Zoology is the study of all things dealing with animals. A one semester course, satisfying a biological science requirement, zoology is laboratory-based, surveying the nine major phyla of the Kingdom Animalia. Today's study of zoology typically includes the study of animal anatomy, physiology, development, histology, ecology, behavior, and evolution in addition to classification. Students should understand that characteristics relate to how an animal functions and how animals have evolved over time to play a particular role in an ecosystem. This class does include the dissection of several animal specimens. (Googles are required for all lab exercises.) This course builds on much of what students have learned about living organisms from their previous Science classes or their personal interests about animals in general. Class activities will include class notes, observation, dissection, development of reading and writing skills, etc. Students are required to keep class materials in a bound lab notebook which should be brought to class daily. Notes and class handouts will be placed in the notebook. There are no tests or quizzes in this class. Assessments will be based on dissections, following directions, lab activities, and group and individual projects. This course is designed for 7th and 8th graders. Guest speakers from our community and possible field trips will be included in this class to expand students knowledge about different areas and careers in the Zoology field. You can access my Zoology Blackboard for resources, information and assignments.

**6530B Science Adventures – Psychology and the Brain**

*Grades 7 & 8*

*Semester*

Have you ever wondered why we think the way we do? Or even thought about why you dream at night? In Psychology and the Brain, you will learn all of this and more! You will learn the basic parts of the brain and what controls your every thought and movement. You will explore the world of personality and learn about different types of brain disorders. You will even have the opportunity to take a deeper look into the workings of your own brain!

**6530C Science Adventures – Chemistry**

*Grades 7 & 8*

*Semester*

Explore atomic structure, chemical reactions, acids & bases, stoichiometry and more

**6530E Science Adventures – Exploring Engineering**

*Grades 7 & 8*

*Semester*

This exciting new semester course introduces basic engineering techniques which will include creating, testing, and revising original designs. Students will be exposed to many engineering careers including but not limited to mechanical, electrical, aerospace, and civil engineering. In engineering labs, students will work on hands-on projects that will address a wide variety of interests. Possible activities include "wind-up-toy surgery" project, where students take apart mechanical toys and put them back together to see how they work, and competing in a NASA sponsored design challenge.

**6530O – Sci. Adv. – Oceanography: Aquatic Environments**

*Grades 7 & 8*

*Semester*

We will be exploring the topography, life forms water characteristics and human impact issues of ocean and fresh water environments.

### **6530C Science Adventures – Zoology**

*Grades 7 & 8*

*Semester*

Zoology is the study of all things dealing with animals. A one semester course, satisfying a biological science requirement, zoology is laboratory-based, surveying the nine major phyla of the Kingdom Animalia. Today's study of zoology typically includes the study of animal anatomy, physiology, development, histology, ecology, behavior, and evolution in addition to classification. Students should understand that characteristics relate to how an animal functions and how animals have evolved over time to play a particular role in an ecosystem. This class does include the dissection of several animal specimens. (Googles are required for all lab exercises.) This course builds on much of what students have learned about living organisms from their previous Science classes or their personal interests about animals in general. Class activities will include class notes, observation, dissection, development of reading and writing skills, etc. Students are required to keep class materials in a bound lab notebook which should be brought to class daily. Notes and class handouts will be placed in the notebook. There are no tests or quizzes in this class. Assessments will be based on dissections, following directions, lab activities, and group and individual projects. This course is designed for 7th and 8th graders. Guest speakers from our community and possible field trips will be included in this class to expand students knowledge about different areas and careers in the Zoology field. You can access my Zoology Blackboard for resources, information and assignments.

### **7027 Leadership**

*Grade 8*

*Semester*

Leadership is an elective course in the Social Studies, which is designed to provide students with an opportunity to develop communication skills and participate in community service projects.

## *Enrichments*

**Art** *Fee associated* – This enrichment class is an opportunity for students to dig deeper into a subject/theme/ or concept through the choice of different art material. Student will need to be self-motivated to work on the projects they design.

**Band Practice** – This class is for students that want to practice their instruments at school during the school day. Priority goes to students that own the bigger instruments, such as tubas and baritones. Students are expected to practice daily to improve. Students need to be self motivated, socially mature, and goal oriented. This class is taught by Andrea Hollenbeck.

**Beauty Within** – For girls only. Learn how to be confident in your decisions and your own body image while practicing beautician techniques.

**Bio-Tech** – Class is aimed at furthering our students' knowledge and interest in topics such as DNA structure and function, transformation, electrophoresis, and mitosis and meiosis. It also includes an independent research component investigating real world applications of biotechnology topics.

**Board Games** – Spend your 6<sup>th</sup> period playing your favorite game with friends or being introduced to a fun new game. This is a great way to end your day at school. I cannot wait to get started. Could it get any better?

**Book Club** – For students who love to read! Time will be spent silently reading, working in groups, participating in literacy circles and making book trailers!

**Books & Tea** – Different than a “book club”, Tea and Books is about your individual choices for reading. In this class students will be asked to read, create, and present individual projects instead of conducting small group book-club talks. “Tea and Books” will also have tea every Friday while sharing books and thinking (and occasionally projects).

**Bullet Journaling** - is a way to customize an organizational, expressive system that works for you. It can be your to-do list, sketchbook, notebook, diary, habit tracker, lettering/calligraphy practice guide, and most likely, it will be all of the above. This class will help you get started on how to create and personalize your bullet journal, and help you explore a new creative outlet. If you would like to see what bullet journaling is, please search for it on YouTube to see some examples and demonstrations.

**Chamber Ensemble (Orchestra)** – This class is designed for string students to be challenged to work in small chamber ensembles. It will be very student-driven and students will be encouraged to form their own groups and work by themselves for the majority of the time. Extra performances as a small ensemble will be encouraged as well.

**Chamber Music (Band)** - Chamber music is open to 7/8 graders first semester. We focus on playing music in small groups and the class will be capped so we can capture the true essence of chamber music. Think of this class for the musician that enjoys solo and ensemble festival. This class is like a mini Solo Ensemble class that should attract students that have a serious desire to become better at their instrument while being challenged and having fun.

**Chess** – An opportunity to refine your chess playing skills combined with some strategy instruction from the # 2 chess player in the State of Colorado.

**Cooking Healthy Snacks** *Fee associated* – Students who are interested in planning, preparing and eating healthy snacks. Learn new food preparation, cooking techniques, and equipment basics and put on a mini cooking show for your classmates. There is a fee for his class.

**Couch to 5K** - A wellness-oriented class that introduces kids to running and gives them the confidence and tools to run a 5k race.

**Current World Affairs** – it is a daily look at the news and issues that affect our community and world.

**Darkroom Photography** - Students will be learning how to process photographs in the darkroom! We will start with Photograms (photos without a camera), then work on creating their very own pinhole camera, and finally developing their first roll of film.

**Fact, Theory, Belief?** : This class will be a discussion based class to address current scientific issues and debates. Providing students with an outlet for learning and challenging various views. The aim of this course would be to help student develop the skills to 1) Navigate and process the vast amount of information that is currently available to them. 2) Learn how to develop educated opinions while respecting opposing views.

**Fly Fishing** – Fly fishing is a class where students learn the basics of fly fishing. We will cover equipment used, tying specialty knots, casting, bug identification, and fly tying. We will fish when we are able either at the pond or a site off campus but the majority of the class is fly tying.

**French Culture Club** - Culture! Language! Friends! Food! French club is a chance for any student who is interested in the French language or culture to learn and experience more, as well as take on leadership roles in planning events for their friends and classmates. Students don't have to speak French to join this class! We will be learning about places in the world where French is spoken (there are over 30!), watching French movies, listening to music, learning dances, playing games, eating food, and planning holiday celebrations throughout the quarter. All are welcome, not just students who know how to speak French!

**Hip Hop Dance (1S)** - In this class, we will be learning hip-hop techniques, rhythms and movements. We will learn what it means to work as a team and will even have a chance to choreograph our own dances. Finally, we will have opportunities to perform in front of audiences! In an upbeat environment, we will learn a lot and have some fun!

**History of Baseball (1S)** - A journey through baseball history starting from the invention to present day. Through documentaries, literature, film, and research. We will hit on major events and major players from baseball's history. You will create a player research project based on your favorite player. We may even get outside and play a game of kickball!

**History of Rock & Roll** – Roots of rock through the new “stuff” of today. Dissect an electric guitar.

**History of Sports (2S)** - A class based on students interests. We will watch documentaries and films based on what the students want to learn about and have discussions based on those same topics.

**History through Film** – Course examines filmic representations of U.S. History. The class focuses on the ideological content of films over their technique. Students are expected to have a familiarity with U.S. history. Topics to vary by instructor and may be repeated once for credit towards the major and/or minor. Lecture/discussion/viewing format.

**Interior Design Exploration** – *Fee associated* This course will help the beginning interior designer learn about the fundamentals of design in order to improve traffic flow and the use of space of a floorplan, design and create inexpensive room accessories, design their “dream room.” As a final project, students will put their new skills to work by redesigning a room at Preston, complete with client interviews and implementing their changes!

**Jazz Choir (2S)** - Students will be introduced to basic vocal jazz techniques while learning about blues, swing, scat singing and jazz notation. Songs will include jazz and show choir tunes with some choreography. Students must be enrolled in apprentice choir or select choir in order to participate.

**Knitting** - All levels welcome.

**KPAW** – We will be working on preparing our daily broadcasts and learning how to record and edit videos.

**Math Counts** – A class that promotes math through a series of fun and engaging contests. The program is geared towards students who love math, problem solving and pattern recognition. We learn ways to figure out tricks to solve math problems in unique and quick ways that aren't taught in a traditional math class.

**Mathematicians Fantasy Football** - Pick a team, calculate their weekly points, and compete with your friends for the title of Fantasy Football Champ! You don't have to know anything about football, but must be willing to do some math.

**Mindfulness for Girls** - Girls will practice hands-on techniques to help them be more mindful (aware) of daily tasks. They will also get an opportunity to learn how their brain is wired and how to best deal with stress and emotions.

**Musical Theatre (1S)** – Preston Middle School's Musical is presented in the fall semester of the school year. Musical theatre class will be 9th period during the 1st and 2nd quarters. Musical Theatre is an important part of Preston Middle school's student's students 'experience, and as such we ask all of our middle schoolers wanting to be involved in theater to audition in the spring for the following fall semester. Whether you are acting, building, costuming, dancing, filming, or back stage, Preston wants to encourage students to explore the craft of the theater.

All students new to Preston have the opportunity to join in the fall, however placement will still be determined based on an audition.

**Orchestra Practice** - Orchestra members have the opportunity to work individually with their director as well as rehearse on their own during enrichment time.

**Pinterest Crafts** - This class is for anyone who likes DIY projects like making your own slime, creating custom locker magnets for friends, upping your organizational game with something you made yourself, or putting together unique and awesome gifts for Hanukkah, Christmas, or birthdays! This class involves a \$5 fee to pay for supplies.

**Readers Theatre** – Readers Theatre is about presenting literature in a dramatic form. In class, we read, rehearse, and perform Readers Theatre scripts. What makes Readers Theatre different from regular theatre is that props are limited and the script is used when presenting the play. Also, the emphasis is mainly on oral expression, not physical. Students will learn acting techniques through theatre games, enhance speaking skills by using expressiveness when rehearsing, and build confidence and team-work skills through performing.

**Rocketry** - Rocketry integrates STEM concepts. This class will be an enriching, hands-on experience in which students will learn science & math to understand flight principles, design and build a rocket, and lastly launch and analyze the results.

**Science Bowl** – Come learn fun and random science by playing team science trivia in this class! You can focus on any area of science that you would like to learn, and will have the opportunity to compete against other students. This class will you give you a head start if you are thinking of competing on the Preston Science Bowl Team, but is also just a fun opportunity to study science!

**Science Fiction Reading and Film** - Students will be reading science fiction books and stories of their choice, and watching science fiction films.

**Science Olympiad/Study Hall** – This course is designed for independent quiet study time for those who would like extra time to study for events before the science Olympiad teams are formed. It is not a requirement to be in Science Olympiad.

**Science Scholars (8<sup>th</sup> grade only)** - Love Science or just interested in exploring more about a Science topic of YOUR choice? Want to better prepare yourself for Highschool Science? Then this is the class for you! This class is an independently driven Science exploration class where you will have the opportunity to explore Science topics and professions of your choice. You will build on your critical thinking skills and explain science to others through Art, Writing, Video, Technology, etc. The choice is yours so bring your thoughts, questions and enthusiasm for science!

Limited spots so talk to your Science teacher to learn more.

**Sign Language (1S)** - This is an overview of American Sign Language (ASL), its basic vocabulary, structure, syntax and grammar. Students will focus on mastering the basics of fingerspelling, numbers, basic vocabulary, facial grammar and sentence structure.

**Soccer** – This technical skill-building class aims to make you a better soccer player. Short-sided drills and scrimmages are emphasized.

**Sports Statistics** - We will be looking up player performance, recording and calculating statistics.

**Study Hall** – Students will be expected to bring work to class every day and/or a book to read.

**Student Play (2S)** - This class will be putting on a student-ran play to be performed in the spring. Auditions will be held for this class and it will be co-directed by an 8th grade student. There will be acting roles as well as a small tech crew that will focus on costuming, marketing and production.

**Theatre Games (2S)** - This class is an intro to acting and improvisation class that focuses on theatre games, basic acting skills and theatre direction.

**Thinking Strategies & Mind Games** - Through the use of learning old fashioned board games and puzzles (Cribbage, Clue, Backgammon, MasterMind, etc.). This class aims to explore and strengthen problem solving skills, critical thinking skills, explore the scientific process, as well as highlight the importance of observations and biases in learning and our everyday lives. I aim for it to be challenging, engaging but overall fun!

**Ultimate Frisbee - Beginner/Intermediate** - This class is for people who are ready to run around outside at the end of the day! You will learn how to improve your throws and catches, and how to play the sport of ultimate the RIGHT way. This class is for people who have not had much experience with ultimate (for example: you only played in PE or Adventure ED, or you haven't played at all.)

**Ultimate Frisbee - Intermediate/Advanced** - This class is only for people who have played ultimate before and who want to improve their skills. You'll learn how to perfect your throws and learn some new throws, too. We'll learn more advanced topics like how to make a good "cut," how to play better defense, and how to run a set play.

**Volleyball for Boys** - This is a boys only volleyball class. Students will work on basic volleyball skills and play volleyball games. CHSAA has now approved boys volleyball for high school so you can work on you volleyball skills here at Preston!!

**Weights** – Students will learn proper lifting techniques and a variety of exercises to target specific muscle groups. Students will need to change into athletic attire on a daily basis to work out.

**Wellness Club** - This class is for students that are interested in using their talents to promote Wellness initiatives in our school. We will be doing crafts that promote health, setting up activities for students in school to enjoy being active and many other fun activities that make Preston a better place.

**Wilderness Skills and Medicine** - What would you do if you were in the wilderness and something went wrong? Would you have the skills to help yourself and others survive? In this class you will learn the basics of vital skills such as splinting and making litters (to transport people) as well basic survival skills.

**Yearbook Exploration (anyone can join)** - come experiment with core yearbook skills such as photography, design, writing, interviewing, and theme creation. Participants increase their chances of making it on next year's yearbook team.

**Yoga** - I would like to bring an academic component to the course discussing anatomy and the human body system effects of yoga.

