

*Preston
Pumas*



7th Grade
COURSE DESCRIPTION
HANDBOOK

PRESTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

4901 Corbett Drive
Fort Collins, Colorado 80528
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Principal
Assistant Principal
Amy Schmer
Lindsey Matkin

Dean of Students
Kyle Healy

Counselor
Julie Baker

Krista Summers

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 -- 7th and 8th 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.

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.

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.

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

LA712 Eng/Language Arts 7 PreAP

Grade 7 Year Long

Pre-AP English 7 is based upon the same curriculum and standards as English 7, 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. Seventh grade English course content is covered in greater depth and with more insight.

SCIENCE

SC722 Science 7 PreAP

Grade 7 Year Long

This is an advanced science course that introduces students to chemistry, thermodynamics, classification, cytology, genetics, sound and light, oceanography, and weather. This course is coordinated with grade 8 Pre-AP Science and is intended to prepare students to take the Advanced Placement Science courses in high school.

SOCIAL STUDIES

SS732 Social Studies 7 PreAp

Grade 7 Year Long

The AP Prep course will teach students how to organize and to analyze geographic information. The course content includes both physical and cultural geography as well as analyzing human social organization and its environmental consequences. This course is intended to prepare students to take the Advanced Placement Geography Course in high school.

MATHEMATICS

0740 7th Grade Mathematics

Year Long

In this course students will gain an understanding about and be able to apply rational numbers. Students will explore ratios and proportions to develop an understanding of linear functions and be able to solve single-variable equations. They will compare data distributions and be able to compare differences between populations. Finally, students will analyze geometric figures, calculating area, surface area, and volume. Content is organized into four critical areas, or units. The Mathematical Practice Standards apply throughout each course and, together with the content standards, prescribe that students experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problem situations

REQUIRED 7TH GRADE CLASSES

3580 Health Grade 7

Grade 7 Semester

A required semester-length class for all seventh graders. The basic topics covered in the course include an overview of the human body, disease, personal wellness, family and peer relationships, drug use and abuse, and growth and development of the adolescent.

3505 Physical Education 7

Grade 7 Semester

This is an activity course designed around developing physical fitness and wellness, desirable social traits, knowledge of a variety of activities and developing motor skill. Depending upon which semester (fall/spring) a student is scheduled; the variety of core activities includes soccer, volleyball, flag football, basketball, softball, tumbling, racquet skills, aerobics, fitness testing, track and field, and rhythms. This does not preclude that a school site would teach, as deemed appropriate, supplementary activities that fit the weather conditions, class make-up

and facilities. THE RECOMMENDED PRESTON P.E. T-SHIRT IS AVAILABLE AT COST THROUGH THE P.E. DEPARTMENT.

MUSIC OPTIONS

2552 Women's Choir 7/8

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 7/8

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.

2590 Concert Band

Grade 7

Year Long

Enrollment in this class is by instructor approval or upon successful completion of beginning band. Intermediate band emphasizes fundamentals such as scales, chords, and tone production. A large quantity of band literature of varying styles and difficulty is studied. Performances are required.

2600 Concert Orchestra

Grade 7

Year long

This is a class designed for 7th graders, but does provide a stronger musical experience for the advanced 6th grade student. It also provides an opportunity for the eighth grader to develop who may not have the necessary skills for the symphony orchestra. Students in this group will have the opportunity to advance at semester. Literature studies is of intermediate difficulty. Performances are required.

WORLD LANGUAGES

Must be proficient in reading & writing on CMAS scores.

4708 French Level 1A

Grade 7

Year Long

Students are introduced to vocabulary and structures during the first 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 communication skills in the target language. The study of a world prepares students to compete in a global community!

4718 German Level 1A

Fee associated

Grade 7

Year Long

Students are introduced to vocabulary and structures during the first 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

communication skills in the target language. The study of a world prepares students to compete in a global community!

4728 Spanish Level 1A

Grade 7

Year Long

Students are introduced to vocabulary and structures during the first 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 communication skills in the target language. The study of a world 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 1

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. Student supplies kit and/or fees required.

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, breadboarding 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 Solidworks 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

No Prerequisite. This course is for the student who enjoys and appreciates outdoor activities. Topics include: safe outdoor living/survival skills, environmental ethics (rules), and 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*

A semester course, 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 *Fee associated Grades 7 & 8 Semester*

Adventure Ed an elective designed to promote lifelong fitness. Students will be introduced to a variety of sports and activities that promote an active healthy lifestyle such as Ultimate Frisbee Frisbee Golf Street hockey Biking Rock Climbing Capture the Flag Kayaking Scuba Diving. Students will be required to wear clothing appropriate for the activities.

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. (Goggles 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.

Enrichments

21st Century Storytelling - The modern world gives us many tools in which to share in one of humanity's oldest traditions. From video games, comic books, manga and anime, to YouTube Creators and Choose-Your-Own-Adventure Netflix shows, with everything in-between. Students will come together to not only investigate and enjoy all the different ways stories are told and create their own stories and experiences.

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.

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 6th 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.

Carnival Games - Explore probability concepts and design carnival games for a Pi Day Carnival.

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.

Character in Action - Exploring positive character traits through media, text, and people in the community.

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 Events – 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.

Drawing - Art enrichment with an emphasis on drawing.

ExploraVision - The ExploraVision competition for K-12 students engages the next generation in real world problem solving with a strong emphasis on STEM. ExploraVision challenges students envision and communicate new technology 20 years in the future through collaborative brainstorming and research of current science and technology.

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 amounts 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 student's 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!

Intro to Computer Science - An introductory course that empowers students to engage with computer science as a medium for creativity, communication, problem solving, and fun! At the end of the course, students will create their very own game or app to share.

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 - Students 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 backstage, Preston wants to encourage students to explore the craft of the theater.

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

Orchestra Practice - Orchestra members will 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.

Programming Lights to Music – Students will design a light sequence to music.

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.

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.

Smart Fit Girls (Semester long) - Smart Fit Girls is a program that teaches adolescent girls how to love their bodies by embracing their own strength. During our program, girls participate in exciting activities aimed at improving their self-esteem and body image, and are introduced to resistance training exercises in a fun, group environment.

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 - Beginning - 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 - 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 - Students will work on basic volleyball skills and play volleyball games. CHSAA has now approved boy's volleyball for high school so you can work on your volleyball skills here at Preston!!

Weight Training – 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.

