Beginning Photography/Graphic Design   1 year

This course introduces students to digital photography and photo manipulation. Students will learn to use manual controls to set exposure values, they will understand compositional principles, and learn various techniques for editing digital photographs using photo editing software. Students will have the opportunity to create a variety of projects in class.

Beginning Web Design/Flash   1 year

This course introduces students to the creation and design of websites. Students will learn to use HTML (Hypertext Markup Language), CSS (Cascading Style Sheets), and a web editor to produce multi-page websites. Students will also learn to use Adobe Flash to create basic animations for their websites. The course does not require any prior knowledge of HTML or web design.

Yearbook   1 year

This class designs and produces the yearbook. Activities include interviewing, feature writing, magazine layout, picture planning, theme and story ideas, advertising, and taking pictures. It is helpful to have some knowledge of Photoshop and/or photography. **Must complete an application.**

Spanish 8   1 year

This course is an introduction to the language and culture of the Spanish speaking world. Students learn vocabulary and grammar through listening, speaking, reading and writing. Emphasis is on listening and reading comprehension and simple conversational skills through role-playing, skits and other interactive methods. This class is not designed for native speakers.

Engineering – Project Lead The Way   1 year

Students will experience hands-on challenges which will take them through the process of design and modeling. All students will receive basic skills which will help prepare them to be competitive in the global economy, including designing, sketching, 3D computer modeling, understanding mechanisms, robotic building, and graphic based computer programming. Students will also explore various CUSD STEM programs along with local tech corporations and universities. There is no pre-requisite to this class. This introductory class feeds into CUSD High School STEM programs.

General Art/ Three-Dimensional Art   1 year

Students in this class will complete projects in cartooning, drawing, painting, ceramics, sculpture, and pottery. Art history, principles of design and elements of design will be incorporated into the various projects. This class has a $5 registration fee.

Physical Education   1 year

This course offers students a basic foundation in physical education by exposing them to a variety of individual and team sports. An emphasis is placed on promoting lifetime sports and physical fitness.

Cadet Band   1 year

Cadet band is recommended for those who have been playing a band instrument for two years or less and is open to hard working beginners who want to learn how to play a band instrument. Most students continuing band from elementary school and 8th grade students who need more fundamentals take this course.

Percussion Ensemble   1 year

Percussion Ensemble is for any student, beginners to advanced players, who would like to learn or further develop playing skills on all percussion instruments (bells, snare drum, xylophone, bass drum, cymbals, etc.). Students entering 7th grade should sign up for this class instead of Cadet Band to receive specialized instruction that is not available to them in the Cadet Band Class; these students still perform concerts with the Cadet Band.

Symphonic Band   1 year

Symphonic Band consists of a select group who has reached high degrees of playing proficiency. This class consists primarily of 8th grade students and the objective of the band is to meet the needs of the more advanced pieces of music that require a higher level of proficiency.
Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation/Audition

Jazz Band   1 year

Jazz band is an elective class that meets before school where students will learn contemporary jazz styles, improvisation, and practical music theory. Students create solos, listen to artists, and learn to play independently within a group. **Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation/Audition**

Beginning Guitar   1 year
This one-year class is designed for students who are not presently in a music class, but would like to learn an instrument and the basics about the guitar and reading music. In this class, students will learn basic chords, note reading, and contemporary musical styles. There is only one level of this class.

Firebird Chorus   1 year
Do you like to sing? Would you enjoy singing and performing with other students? Firebird Chorus gives you a chance to express yourself through singing and to perform at concerts and choir festivals. If you are new to choir at Willis, this is the place to start!

Concert Choir   1 year
Are you willing to work harder than the average student? Are you looking for more performing opportunities? Are you motivated to sing and learn and perform with 'excellence' as the goal?   This choir performs at concerts, choir festivals, and at elementary schools throughout the year and is open to students either by audition or teacher recommendation.

Cadet String Orchestra   1 year
This course consists of group instruction for students that are wishing to continue their string studies. Instruments include: violin, viola, cello, and string bass. Student who play at an intermediate level are qualified for this class. Students will continue to develop note recognition, rhythmic accuracy, sight-reading ability, and better tone production. There will be several evening concerts, and attendance is mandatory.

Firebird Orchestra   1 year
This course is a select group of students who have reached a higher degree of playing proficiency. The objective of this orchestra is to meet the needs of the more advanced musicians who require more challenge than any other Jr. High string student. Students will be expected to perform several times throughout the year at various school and community functions, as well as festivals and contests. Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is mandatory.