

SIXTH GRADE EXPLORATORY COURSES

Art 6

Trimester Course

6th Grade Art class introduces students to middle school art concepts, building on their lower school art experiences and knowledge. Students create a portfolio of work, focusing on the comprehension and application of Art Elements and Principles of Design. Students will be creating, presenting, responding to and connecting with artwork, artists, and styles. Lessons combine a variety of 2D and 3D art processes including, drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, fiber art and mixed media.

STEAM 6

Trimester Course

Explore the world of STEAM in a fun, hands-on environment designed to foster deeper curiosity, innovation, and creative thinking. Using tools such as Lego Robotics, MinecraftEdu, and others, students will develop the thinking and problem-solving skills needed to thrive in today's world.

Drama 6

Trimester Course

Students will participate in a variety of games, activities, and projects that will teach basic concepts for the stage such as stage movement, theater terminology, public speaking, history of theatre, and improvisation. While pursuing excellence in a performance environment, drama class encourages and increases critical thinking skills, idea generation, group collaboration, confidence, and listening skills, among other important life skills.

Dance 6

All-Year Course

A dance class focused on ballet and contemporary dance technique fundamentals with a performance opportunity each semester. Each trimester, dance will be paired with another class to give students the full exploratory experience.

World Cultures and Languages 6

Trimester Course

Students will gain exposure to the cultures and traditions of Spanish-speaking and French-speaking countries from around the globe. Through games, sports, food, art, music and dance, these two languages will come to life for the students. They will learn some basic greetings and simple vocabulary in both Spanish and French. *Note: All students will automatically be placed in this class.*

Outdoor Education 6

Trimester Course

The Outdoor Education class consists of several unique opportunities that include but are not limited to the following: fishing canoeing, kayaking, camp setup, “leaving no trace”, archery, frisbee golf, bocce ball and other outdoor games.

Team Sports 6

Trimester Course

Team Sports will focus on several different types of sports including basketball, flag football, ultimate frisbee, soccer, softball, team handball, volleyball, etc. Students will be presented with the rules and regulations of each sport and practice the skills to be successful at each sport.

Fitness 6

Trimester Course

The Fitness class will be based on mechanics, consistency, and intensity of physical activity. Physical activity will include stretching, cardio, and muscle strengthening and toning. We will also learn the importance of proper rest and nutrition.

Computer Skills 6

Trimester Course

Learn and play in the virtual space with a variety of software programs including coding, keyboarding, and more for instruction in a fun, project-based learning environment.

Digital Photography 6

Trimester Course

Learn the fundamentals of quality photography with digital SLR cameras. Students will have hands-on opportunities to learn how to manipulate lighting, settings, editing, etc. and enjoy creating with the beauty they capture.

Band 6

All-Year Course

Students will learn comprehensive musicianship- all aspects of the discipline of music as defined by the NAFME National Standards- by performing on orchestral wind and percussion instruments. The acquisition of instrumental music skills leads to the development of musical concepts that may be transferred to multiple artistic applications. Band is approached as a spiral curriculum where students learn every part of the discipline each year, but in greater depth according to their grade level until culmination of the course cycle at the end of twelfth grade.

Chorus 6

All-Year Course

Chorus offers the opportunity to participate in a vocal music program dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in music through performance. Students will learn choral literature appropriately arranged for middle school voices in daily rehearsals and perform several times during the school year.

Orchestra 6

All-Year Course

Orchestra class teaches the four major string instruments, violin, viola, cello, and bass, learning a wide variety of orchestra literature, musical genres, history and cultures. Each year in orchestra builds upon the last year, however previous ensemble experience is not required for joining orchestra in middle school.

SEVENTH GRADE EXPLORATORY COURSES

Art 7

Trimester Course

7th Grade Art class will expand on the fundamentals of 6th grade art. Students create a portfolio of work, which shows a more in-depth exploration of creating, presenting, responding and connecting to art, while connecting to the world of art to other areas of learning and personal endeavors. Lessons combine a variety of 2D and 3D art processes including, drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, fiber art and mixed media.

Advanced Art 7 *Prerequisite: Art 7 and prior teacher recommendation

Trimester Course

7th Grade Advanced Art class is for the serious student showing interest and talent in visual art. This class will expand on the fundamentals of 7th grade art, developing a deeper understanding of art processes and techniques. Students will create a portfolio of work, which shows a more in-depth exploration of creating, presenting, responding and connecting to art. Students will use critical thinking skills to build upon their art knowledge. Lessons will combine a variety of 2D and 3D art processes including, drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, fiber art and mixed media.

STEAM 7 (PLTW: Computer Science for Innovators and Makers)

Trimester Course

Students will learn about programming for the physical world by blending hardware design and software development. Using microcontrollers with inputs and outputs, they will develop code that brings their physical designs to life. Students discover computer science concepts and skills by creating personally relevant, tangible projects.

Drama 7

Trimester Course

Students will participate in a variety of games, activities, and projects that will teach basic concepts for the stage such as stage movement, theater terminology, public speaking, history of theatre, and improvisation. While pursuing excellence in a performance environment, drama class encourages and increases critical thinking skills, idea generation, group collaboration, confidence, and listening skills, among other important life skills.

Drama II 7

Trimester Course

Drama II is an optional continuation of seventh grade drama. This class will build upon existing drama skills. Students will increase their confidence in performance and continue cultivating critical thinking skills, idea generation, collaboration, and listening skills, among other important life skills.

Outdoor Education 7

Trimester Course

The Outdoor Education class consists of several unique opportunities that include but are not limited to the following: fishing canoeing, kayaking, camp setup, “leaving no trace”, archery, frisbee golf, bocce ball and other outdoor games.

Team Sports 7

Trimester Course

Team Sports will focus on several different types of sports including basketball, flag football, ultimate frisbee, soccer, softball, team handball, volleyball, etc. Students will be presented with the rules and regulations of each sport and practice the skills to be successful at each sport.

Strength and Conditioning 7

Trimester Course

This class will be based on mechanics, consistency, and intensity of physical activity. Physical activity will include stretching, cardio, and muscle strengthening and toning. We will also learn the importance of proper rest and nutrition.

Digital Photography 7

Trimester Course

Learn the fundamentals of quality photography with digital SLR cameras. Students will have hands-on opportunities to learn how to manipulate lighting, settings, editing, etc and enjoy creating with the beauty they capture.

Spanish 1A

All-Year Course

Spanish 1A is the first half of our high school Spanish 1 course as the entire course is taught over the course of 7th and 8th grade. Everyday expressions, vocabulary, and grammar are emphasized. The students will develop listening, speaking, reading and

writing skills. Latin American culture and countries will be studied as well. NOTE: Students who successfully complete Spanish 1A (7th grade) and Spanish 1B in eighth grade are eligible to begin Spanish 2 in ninth grade.

French 1A

All-Year Course

French 1A is the first half of our high school French 1 course as the entire course is taught over the course of 7th and 8th grade. Students develop listening, reading, writing and speaking skills in this introductory course. They learn basic vocabulary, everyday expressions, verbs and grammatical concepts. The study of the culture and geography of various French-speaking countries is also emphasized. NOTE: Students who successfully complete French 1A (7th grade) and French 1B in eighth grade are eligible to begin French 2 in ninth grade.

Dance 7

All-Year Course

A dance class focused on ballet and contemporary dance technique fundamentals with a performance opportunity each semester.

Band 7

All-Year Course

Students will learn comprehensive musicianship- all aspects of the discipline of music as defined by the NAfME National Standards- by performing on orchestral wind and percussion instruments. The acquisition of instrumental music skills leads to the development of musical concepts that may be transferred to multiple artistic applications. Band is approached as a spiral curriculum where students learn every part of the discipline each year, but in greater depth according to their grade level until the culmination of the course cycle at the end of twelfth grade.

Chorus 7

All-Year Course

Chorus offers the opportunity to participate in a vocal music program dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in music through performance. Students will learn choral literature appropriately arranged for middle school voices in daily rehearsals and perform several times during the school year.

Orchestra 7

All-Year Course

Orchestra class teaches the four major string instruments, violin, viola, cello, and bass, learning a wide variety of orchestra literature, musical genres, history and cultures. Each year in orchestra builds upon the last year, however previous ensemble experience is not required for joining orchestra in middle school.

EIGHTH GRADE EXPLORATORY COURSES

Art 8

Trimester Course

8th Grade Art class will expand on the fundamentals of 6th and 7th grade art. Students create a portfolio of work, which shows a more in-depth exploration of creating, presenting, responding and connecting to art. Lessons will combine a variety of 2D and 3D art processes including, drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, fiber art and mixed media.

Advanced Art 8 * Need prior teacher recommendation

Trimester Course

8th Grade Art class will expand on the fundamentals of 6th and 7th grade art. Students create a portfolio of work, which shows a more in-depth exploration of creating, presenting, responding and connecting to art. Lessons will combine a variety of 2D and 3D art processes including, drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, fiber art and mixed media.

Intro to Graphic Design 8

Trimester Course

This course introduces students to principles and elements of graphic design using Adobe Creative Cloud Suite as the primary tool for expression through the digital realm. Classes will engage use of the Apple/Mac computing environment through the digital lab in the Murray Arts Center.

Costuming 8

Trimester Course

Learn how to sew and create theatrical costumes. Introductory skill development in design and fabrication techniques for theatrical costuming and stage props.

STEAM 8 (PLTW: Design and Modeling)

Trimester Course

Design and Modeling provides students opportunities to apply the design process to creatively solve problems. Students learn and utilize methods for communicating design ideas through technical sketches, prototyping, and computer-aided design in a project-based environment.

3D Modeling and Printing

Trimester Course

In this course, students will learn how to be “makers” by using 3D modeling software to print actual, physical objects that they have designed and modeled themselves. Students will discover for themselves the potential and limitations of 3D printing through build-intensive design projects.

Drama 8

Trimester Course

Students will participate in a variety of games, activities, and projects that will teach basic concepts for the stage such as stage movement, theater terminology, public speaking, history of theatre, and improvisation. While pursuing excellence in a performance environment, drama class encourages and increases critical thinking skills, idea generation, group collaboration, confidence, and listening skills, among other important life skills.

Drama II 8 *Prerequisite: Drama 8 and teacher recommendation

Trimester Course

Drama II is an optional continuation of eighth grade drama. This class will build upon existing drama skills. Students will increase their confidence in performance and continue cultivating critical thinking skills, idea generation, collaboration, and listening skills, among other important life skills.

Outdoor Ed 8

Trimester Course

The Outdoor Education class consists of several unique opportunities that include but are not limited to the following: fishing canoeing, kayaking, camp setup, “leaving no trace”, archery, frisbee golf, bocce ball and other outdoor games.

Team Sports 8

Trimester Course

Team Sports will focus on several different types of sports including basketball, flag football, ultimate frisbee, soccer, softball, team handball, volleyball, etc. Students will be presented with the rules and regulations of each sport and practice the skills to be successful at each sport.

Strength Training and Conditioning 8

Trimester Course

The focus of the 8th grade Strength and Conditioning class is to motivate, educate, and train athletes and improve overall performance. This class will use the basics of weightlifting and conditioning along with teaching athletes how to fuel the body with a well balanced diet.

Dance 8

All-Year Course

A dance class focused on ballet and contemporary dance technique fundamentals with a performance opportunity each semester.

Spanish 1B *Prerequisite: Spanish 1A in 7th Grade

All-Year Course

Spanish 1B is the second half of the high school Spanish 1 course for students as the entire course is taught over the course of 7th and 8th grade. . Everyday expressions, expansion of the vocabulary and grammar are emphasized. The students will develop listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. Latin American culture and countries will be studied as well. Please note that successful completion of this course will result in the opportunity to register for Spanish II in ninth grade.

French 1B *Prerequisite: French 1A in 7th Grade

All-Year Course

French 1B is the second half of the high school French 1 course. The entire course is taught over two years in 7th and 8th grade. Students continue to develop the four basic language skills -- listening, reading, writing and speaking. Students will also study the culture, traditions and geography of various French-speaking countries. Greater emphasis is placed on learning and mastering more complex grammatical structures. NOTE: Students who successfully complete French 1A in 7th grade and French 1B in 8th grade are eligible to begin French 2 in ninth grade.

Band 8

All-Year Course

Students will learn comprehensive musicianship- all aspects of the discipline of music as defined by the NAfME National Standards- by performing on orchestral wind and percussion instruments. The acquisition of instrumental music skills leads to the development of musical concepts that may be transferred to multiple artistic applications. Band is approached as a spiral curriculum where students learn every part of the discipline each year, but in greater depth according to their grade level until the culmination of the course cycle at the end of twelfth grade.

Chorus 8

All-Year Course

Chorus offers the opportunity to participate in a vocal music program dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in music through performance. Students will learn choral literature appropriately arranged for middle school voices in daily rehearsals and perform several times with the high school choir during the school year.

Orchestra 8

All-Year Course

Orchestra class teaches the four major string instruments, violin, viola, cello, and bass, learning a wide variety of orchestra literature, musical genres, history and cultures. Each year in orchestra builds upon the last year, however previous ensemble experience is not required for joining orchestra in middle school.

Business and Entrepreneurship 8

Trimester Course

Students will have the opportunity to get real practical experience of running a business as they oversee the sales, inventory, and management of the Middle School Snack Cart. In addition, students will develop the scope of an idea and turn it into a product or service, where they will engage in a “Shark Tank” like panel for exciting feedback.