

## **SIXTH GRADE EXPLORATORY COURSES**

### **Art 6**

#### ***Semester Course Meeting 4 Days per Week***

This is an introductory course for students interested in pursuing art. Content includes in-depth instruction on fundamental skills with focus on the elements of art, an introduction to art appreciation, and art history. Students will learn techniques in a variety of art media including pen and ink, acrylics, watercolor, charcoal, collage, paper mache, and clay hand building.

### **STEAM 6**

#### ***Semester Course Meeting 2 Days per Week***

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, Scratch, and others, students will develop the thinking and problem-solving skills needed to thrive in today's world.

### **Drama 6**

#### ***Semester Course Meeting 2 Days per Week***

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**

#### ***Year-Long Course Meeting 2 Days per Week***

A dance class based in ballet and contemporary dance technique fundamentals with a performance opportunity each semester.

### **Spanish Culture and Language 6**

#### ***Semester Course Meeting 2 Days per Week***

Students will engage in the Spanish language with opportunities to explore various parts of Spanish culture including customs, foods, and traditions around the globe.

### **French Culture and Language 6**

#### ***Semester Course Meeting 2 Days per Week***

Students will engage in the French language with opportunities to explore various parts of French culture including customs, foods, and traditions around the globe.

### **Outdoor Education 6**

#### ***Semester Course Meeting 2 Days per Week***

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

## **Team Sports 6**

### ***Semester Course Meeting 2 Days per Week***

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**

### ***Semester Course Meeting 2 Days per Week***

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.

## **Virtual Playground 6**

### ***Semester Course Meeting 2 Days per Week***

Learn and play in the virtual space with a variety of software programs; keyboarding instruction in a fun project based learning environment.

## **Digital Photography 6**

### ***Semester Course Meeting 2 Days per Week***

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**

### ***Year-Long Course Meeting 4 Days per Week***

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**

### ***Year-Long Course Meeting 4 Days per Week***

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**

### ***Year-Long Course Meeting 4 Days per Week***

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**

#### ***Semester Course Meeting 4 Days per Week***

This is an introductory course for students interested in pursuing art. Content includes in-depth instruction on fundamental skills with focus on the elements of art, an introduction to art appreciation, and art history. Students will learn techniques in a variety of art media including pen and ink, acrylics, watercolor, charcoal, collage, paper mache, and clay hand building.

### **Advanced Art 7 \*Prerequisite: Art 7 and prior teacher approval**

#### ***Semester Course Meeting 4 Days per Week***

This course is designed for students who show strong interest and talent in visual art. Students are expected to be highly self-motivated and have a deep desire to dive into more complex and challenging art techniques. Students are required to maintain a working sketchbook/journal in addition to their class work. Individualized studies of special interest are encouraged.

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

#### ***Semester Course Meeting 2 Days per Week***

Have you ever wondered how code can be used in wearable tech, art exhibits, or mechanical devices? Students 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. It's time to become an innovator and maker using physical computing!

### **Drama 7**

#### ***Semester Course Meeting 2 Days per Week***

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.

### **Outdoor Education 7**

#### ***Semester Course Meeting 2 Days per Week***

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

### **Team Sports 7**

#### ***Semester Course Meeting 2 Days per Week***

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 7**

### ***Semester Course Meeting 2 Days per Week***

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.

## **Digital Photography 7**

### ***Semester Course Meeting 2 Days per Week***

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.

## **Costuming 7**

### ***Semester Course Meeting 2 Days per Week***

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

## **Spanish 1A**

### ***All-Year Course Meeting 2 Days per Week***

Students receive an introduction to the Spanish language, including learning beginning words, phrases and conversation, verb conjugation, and exposure to various aspects of Spanish culture.

## **French 1A**

### ***All-Year Course Meeting 2 Days per Week***

Students receive an introduction to the French language, including learning beginning words, phrases and conversation, verb conjugation, and exposure to various aspects of French culture.

## **Dance 7**

### ***All-Year Course Meeting 2 Days per Week***

A dance class based in ballet and contemporary dance technique fundamentals with a performance opportunity each semester.

## **Band 7**

### ***All-Year Course Meeting 4 Days per Week***

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 7**

### ***All-Year Course Meeting 4 Days per Week***

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 Meeting 4 Days per Week***

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**

#### ***Semester Course Meeting 4 Days per Week***

This is an introductory course for students interested in pursuing art. Content includes in-depth instruction on fundamental skills with focus on the elements of art, an introduction to art appreciation, and art history. Students will learn techniques in a variety of art media including pen and ink, acrylics, watercolor, charcoal, collage, paper mache, and clay hand building.

#### **Advanced Art 8 \*Prerequisite: Art 8 and prior teacher approval**

#### ***Semester Course Meeting 4 Days per Week***

This course is designed for students who want a more independent experience in art class who show strong interest and talent in visual art. Students are expected to be highly self-motivated, have good time management, and have a deep desire to dive into more complex and challenging art techniques. Students are required to maintain a working sketchbook/journal in addition to their class work. Students will be required to communicate ideas about works of art through writing and speaking, submit a writing piece suitable for inclusion in their writing portfolio, study styles of art through slides and videos, and create projects that illustrate these styles in order to earn credit for this course.

### **Intro to Graphic Design 8**

#### ***Semester Course Meeting 2 Days per Week***

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**

### ***Semester Course Meeting 2 Days per Week***

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)**

### ***Semester Course Meeting 2 Days per Week***

Have you ever wanted to create a toy or a device to help people? Students use tools such as the design process, a computer-aided design program, computer simulations, an engineering notebook, and a 3D printer to design, model, and build objects in this hands-on class. Discover the design process and turn your ideas into realities!

## **Drama 8**

### ***Semester Course Meeting 2 Days per Week***

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 prior teacher approval**

### ***Semester Course Meeting 2 Days per Week***

Drama II is an optional continuation of first semester 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**

### ***Semester Course Meeting 2 Days per Week***

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

## **Team Sports 8**

### ***Semester Course Meeting 2 Days per Week***

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**

### ***Semester Course Meeting 2 Days per Week***

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.

## **Yearbook 8**

### ***All-Year Course Meeting 2 Days per Week***

This course introduces students to principles and elements of publication photography and journalism through the Herff-Jones curriculum with the primary goal of collaboration to build the school's yearbook. Taught in project-based learning modes, this class will require students to commit to occasional extracurricular work in order to chronicle events through photos and journalism, and to meet deadlines for publication.

## **Dance 8**

### ***All-Year Course Meeting 2 Days per Week***

A dance class based in ballet and contemporary dance technique fundamentals with a performance opportunity each semester.

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

### ***All-Year Course Meets 2 Days per Week 1st Semester and 4 Days per Week 2nd Semester***

Students expand upon prior knowledge with more in-depth learning of the Spanish language, including vocabulary, reading, and writing. Students continue learning about the various aspects of Spanish culture. Please note that successful completion of this course will result in high school credit for Spanish I and the opportunity to register for Spanish II in ninth grade.

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

### ***All-Year Course Meets 2 Days per Week 1st Semester and 4 Days per Week 2nd Semester***

Students expand upon prior knowledge with more in-depth learning of the French language, including vocabulary, reading, and writing. Students continue learning about the various aspects of French culture. Please note that successful completion of this course will result in high school credit for French I and the opportunity to register for French II in ninth grade.

## **Band 8**

### ***All-Year Course Meeting 4 Days per Week***

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.

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