

## **7th Grade Elective Classes**

Seventh grade elective classes provide an education in and exposure to the visual and performing arts, the work place, and the trades. These courses strive to clarify the relationship of the arts and trades to other academic disciplines and to stress their importance as a humanizing force in both the past and the present. Elective classes explore the practical and theoretical aspects of various disciplines and help seventh grade students to realize their own unique interests and potential. There are no prerequisite classes so students are encouraged to explore a variety of topics of interest to them.

### **Art**

In this twelve-week class, students learn about two- and three-dimensional art through discussions of many examples of historical and contemporary artists and their work. Through hands-on projects, students learn to use various painting and drawing media and ceramics and acquire the skills necessary to create works of their own. The students complete projects, which emphasize understanding and applying the specific design elements of line, shape, space, color, and value.

### **Art II**

This is a twelve-week, advanced class designed for students who have an interest in art and wish to further their learning about two- and three-dimensional art. This class is designed for students who enjoy art and want to enhance their skills with a community of similarly interested artists. Students continue with their study of drawing of the portrait, hands, and feet and of color theory application to paintings and pastels of landscape and formal subjects. Hands-on projects emphasize sculptural elements of space, form, representation, and the inclusion of emotional response; projects may include sculpture, wood design, ceramics, metalsmithing and the process of creating jewelry.

### **Artistic Productions**

In this twelve-week class students will explore and experience the power of voice, written word, and imagery in present day society. Students will present creative writing, persuasive speech, and engage in Speech and Debate. Students will also learn storyboard and script writing techniques, and will finally film Public Service Announcements using digital video and iMovie editing software.

### **Band**

This yearlong class is designed to develop additional skills in instrumental playing, as well as increase musical understanding through performance. An equal emphasis is placed on skill development and performance. Students enrolling in this class should have two years of playing experience through school classes or private lessons.

**Choir**

Choir is a performance group, open to all students, devoted to the study and performance of music from a wide spectrum of styles. The class includes an introduction to fundamental singing techniques. The chorus is a yearlong class.

**Family & Consumer Science**

Healthy eating and nutrition are taught in this 12-week class with a hands-on emphasis. Students learn basic cooking skills and how to make healthy food choices by preparing and eating healthy recipes. Managing money, making financial decisions, and career exploration are also taught. Class utilizes sewing machines to construct a project.

**Information Skills**

Info Skills class is designed to provide students with further skills in computer literacy. Students will develop their ability to utilize information for critical thinking, problem solving, and decision making in order to function efficiently in our society. Students should further their keyboarding, word-processing, research and electronic presentation skills.

**International Awareness**

This twelve-week class is designed for students to become globally aware and gain appreciation for diverse cultures of the world. Students will be introduced to basic phrases in many different world languages, discuss current events, and participate in international issues and projects. Students will gain an understanding of how the world is increasingly interconnected due to technology, international trade, travel and career opportunities. Students will acquire skills that will enable them to become active and informed global citizens.

**Orchestra**

This yearlong class is designed to develop additional skills in instrumental playing, as well as increase musical understanding through performance. An equal emphasis is placed on skill development and performance. Students enrolling in this class should have two years of playing experience through school classes or private lessons.

**Performance Art**

In this interactive twelve-week class students further explore several aspects of theatre and various styles of live performance. Students will gain public speaking confidence through creative writing, monologue, scene, and group skit performances as well as improvisation activities. The term will end with a cultural paper mache' mask-making unit and will incorporate internet research.

### **Reading/Writing Challenge**

Reading/Writing Challenge is a twelve-week course designed to promote the appreciation of literature and introduce critical reading skills. Students will explore various genres of fiction and begin to critically examine how literary elements contribute to the quality of writing. The course will also provide students with various strategies to help them read nonfiction materials. Class time will be divided between whole-class discussion of short stories and poetry, independent reading, and analysis of literature, and self-selected literary circle groups.

### **Technology Education**

Humans invent and create technology to modify their environment, solve problems, and fulfill our wants and needs. In this twelve-week class, students use computers, video equipment, and other instruments to invent, design, and solve problems. Students study the process of design with a focus on application to everyday lives, the environment, and the future.

### **Tech Ed Challenge- Automation and Robotics**

This course involves the history, application and potential for technology. Students will learn through cross-curriculum, multi-cultural instruction. Students trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems.

### **Tech Ed Challenge- Design and Modeling**

This course involves the history, application and potential for technology. Students will learn through cross-curriculum, multi-cultural instruction. Students will be involved with various projects that demonstrate principles of technology, apply the design process to solve problems, and understand the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives.

### **World Language**

Twelve-week beginning level classes are offered in French, German, or Spanish; students may select one, two, or three languages to study. Students explore customs, traditions, music, food, and festivals of the culture encompassed by the language. Students also develop their vocabulary, grammar, and conversational skills. This class is recommended (but not required) for students planning to continue in the same foreign language in eighth grade.

### **World Music**

This is an exciting twelve-week class open to all students, based on the drumming circles of the Native American Indian tribes, African tribes, and Latin American cultures. Students also explore the cultures of Russia, Australia, and Asia through the development of traditional native drumming groups and ensembles. Students play drums, percussion instruments, listen, read, and compose music.