

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, photography, or metal-smithing and the process of creating jewelry.

Artistic Productions

In this interactive twelve-week class students further explore several aspects of theatre and film. Students will gain public speaking confidence through monologue and scene performances and improvisation activities. Students will learn how to create, market, and advertise a products or service. Students will film and critique their own performances. Historical and cultural research during a mask-making unit will wrap up the Trimester.

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. Band students may also sign up for choir; if taking both band and choir, students attend band and choir on an alternating daily schedule.

Choir

Choir is a yearlong performance group, open to all students, devoted to the study and performance of music from a wide spectrum of sacred and secular styles. The class continues to build on singing techniques that were introduced in 6th grade. Sight-reading, note-naming and rhythmic skills are more in depth building upon their sixth grade experience. A bulk of the time is spent singing, but there are quizzes and assignments as well.

Foreign 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.

Information Skills/Technology Education

Humans invent and create technology to modify their environment, solve problems, and make their lives better. 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.

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. Orchestra students may also sign up for choir; if taking both orchestra and choir, students attend orchestra and choir on an alternating daily schedule.

Reading/Writing Challenge

Reading Workshop 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.

Technical Education Challenge

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.

Technical 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 write and perform Persuasive Speech and participate in a class Speech and Debate. Students will also learn storyboard and scriptwriting techniques. Finally, students will film and produce their own Public Service Announcement or independent short film.

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 Australia and Asia through the development of traditional native drumming groups and ensembles. Students play drums, percussion instruments, listen, read, and compose music.