

SMS 6th Grade Elective Courses

Art

In this six-week class, students survey the basic artistic elements of drawing, painting, and color theory. Students learn to communicate at a basic level in two-dimensional and three-dimensional art. Through hands-on work and study, they design and produce basic analyses of works of art.

Artistic Productions

This six-week class offers an exploration of world cultures and storytelling in both visual and written form by merging art with stories. It may also include performance and/or basic animation. Students have a choice on the final production of their story ranging from book-making and animated drawing to an audio recording or performance in a medium of their choice.

Art II

This six-week class is a continuation of study into two-dimensional 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. Through hands-on projects, students learn to use various painting and drawing media and acquire the skills necessary to create works of their own. Students complete several projects, which emphasize understanding and applying the specific design elements of line, shape, space, color, and value. Students also produce several projects in clay and sculpture where they learn about form, function, and construction techniques. Format use and color theory are linked with art history elements. Students learn about the cultural impact upon art elements and the development of art forms.

Band

This yearlong class is designed to develop skills in instrumental playing, as well as increase musical understanding through performance. The main emphasis at this level is on skill development. Students enrolling in this class should have one year 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 styles including secular, sacred, Broadway, and classical. The class includes an introduction to fundamental singing techniques (sight-reading and rhythm work). Most of the time will be spent singing; there will also be written work and quizzes.

Family & Consumer Science

Healthy eating and nutrition are taught with a hands-on emphasis in this six-week class. 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.

Information Skills I & II

Info skills I is a required six-week class. The goal of Basic Information Skills is to empower students with the skills needed to become more productive, efficient, and critical users of information and research tools. Students will learn how to locate, evaluate, and ethically use information. As a final project, they will create digital presentations. In Info Skills II, students will continue to develop these skills through a research topic of their choice.

International Awareness

This six-week class is designed for students to become globally aware and gain an 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 skills in instrumental playing, as well as increase musical understanding through performance. The main emphasis at this level is on skill development. Students enrolling in this class do not have to have any previous playing experience. Orchestra students may also sign up for choir; if taking both orchestra and choir, students attend orchestra and choir on an alternating daily schedule.

Performance Art

This six-week class offers an introduction to the foundation of performance art. Students will explore improvisation, basic storytelling both in written form and physical form, pantomime, and radio theater.

Reading and Writing Challenge

This six-week class is geared toward students who enjoy reading and writing, and want to increase reading comprehension, hone their writing skills and appreciate literature with a community of similarly interested students. Students will explore various genres of fiction and nonfiction and learn how literary elements contribute to quality writing. Through a focus on poetry, short stories, and independent reading selections, students will be expected to read, write, study, and share their knowledge about literature.

Technology Education

Humans invent and create technology to modify their environment, solve problems, and fulfill our wants and needs. In this six-week class, students are introduced to technology education and use computers, imagination, power tools, 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

This course involves the history, application and potential for technology. Students will learn through cross-curriculum, multicultural instruction. Students will be involved with various projects that demonstrate principles of technology.

World Language: French, German, and/or Spanish

Fun and interactive six-week beginning level classes are offered in Spanish, French, and German. Students may select one, two, or three languages to study. Students study the culture, geography, history, vocabulary, and traditions of people around the world. Students learn language through games, songs, skits, movement, food, stories, and cultural celebrations with a focus on oral communications. By selecting all three languages, students can best determine which language they wish to continue studying in seventh and eighth grades.

World Music

This 6-week class covers music from 6 major regions of the globe: *Africa, Asia, Oceania, Europe, Latin America, North America*. Students learn by listening, performing, composing, and comparing. Students enjoy an ensemble experience - being a vital part of a bigger picture. *Students do not NEED to read music well to be successful in World Music Class (although sometimes it helps!)*