

SMS 7th Grade Elective Courses

Art

In this twelve-week class, students learn about the fundamental principles of two- and three-dimensional art through discussions of historical and contemporary artists. Through hands-on projects, students also learn to use various painting and drawing media to acquire the skills necessary to create works of their own.

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 study the art of animation flip books and then transition to advertising. The class studies advertising techniques both past and present, logo design, product design, and branding. The class culminates in an individual ad campaign in which students create their own commercials.

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.

International Awareness

This twelve-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 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 the foundation of acting and performance through improvisation, creative writing, monologue, scene, and group performances. If time allows, we dip into Shakespeare.

Reading and Writing Challenge

Reading/Writing Challenge is a twelve-week course designed to promote the appreciation of literature and writing and introduce critical reading skills. Students will explore various genres of fiction and nonfiction and begin to examine how literary elements contribute to quality writing. Class time will be divided between keeping a writing journal, discussion of short stories and poetry, independent reading, and analysis of literature, and participating in literature circle groups.

Tech Ed Automation and Robotics

This course involves the history, application and potential for technology. Students will learn through cross-curriculum, multicultural 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 Design and Modeling

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, apply the design process to solve problems, and understand the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives.

World Language: French, German, and/or Spanish

Prerequisite: Curiosity and desire to understand Spanish, French, or German-speaking cultures and communicate using the language. Fun and interactive twelve-week beginning level classes are offered in Spanish, French, and German; students may select one, two, or three languages to study in seventh grade. 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 12-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!)*