

SMS 8th Grade Elective Courses

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 use various painting and drawing media and acquire the skills necessary to create works of their own. Professional application of artistic techniques into graphic art is learned.

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 is a class for students who enjoy art and want to enhance their art skills with a community of similarly interested artists. Studies focus on enhanced drawing and painting skills using various media. 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 metalsmithing and the process of creating jewelry. Proportion, spatial representation, design, and composition are emphasized.

Artistic/Technical Productions

In this twelve-week class, students review basic design and composition principles. Students will explore creative digital programs which may include basic animation, graphic design, photography, and/or filmmaking. Independent studies may be proposed from those that have previously completed Mixed Media with a Proficient score and complete at least 2 projects in the first 4 weeks. Independent Studies are granted at the teacher's discretion and require a thorough proposal and individual research of the medium proposed which must include digital media.

Band

This yearlong class meets five days a week and is designed to develop skills in instrumental playing, as well as increase musical understanding through performance. The main emphasis at this level is performance. Students enrolling in this class should have three years of previous instruction in a school setting 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 chorus is a yearlong class and meets five days a week. Students enrolling in this class should have previous choral experience.

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.

Multi Media

In this twelve-week class, students will explore a variety of artistic mediums, which combines traditional art materials in combination with creative digital programs. MixedMedia journaling and digital journaling is a regular practice in this class. Independent studies may be proposed from those that have previously completed Artistic Technical Productions with a Proficient score and complete at least 2 projects in the first 4 weeks. Independent Studies are granted at the teacher's discretion and require a thorough proposal and individual research of the medium proposed.

Orchestra

This yearlong class meets five days a week and is designed to develop skills in instrumental playing, as well as increase musical understanding through performance. The main emphasis at this level is performance. Students enrolling in this class should have three years of previous instruction in a school setting or private lessons.

Reading/Writing Challenge

This twelve-week course is designed to promote an appreciation of literature and increase critical reading and writing skills. 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. Students will work toward utilizing more sophisticated descriptive language through figurative language, varied sentence structures, and developing their own voice as writers, and strive for competence in critical revision of their own writing, as well as that of other students. The course will also provide students with various strategies to help them read nonfiction materials.

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

Prerequisite: Curiosity and desire to understand Spanish, French, or German-speaking cultures and communicate using the language. Language Level 1 courses are the first of a possible five-year series of yearlong language courses with the end goal of gaining a high level of proficiency before graduating, with available AP and free college credits. Students will explore various fun and exciting aspects of the Spanish, French, or German - speaking world as they develop interpersonal communication skills. By the end of this course, students will be able to speak, read, write, listen and communicate about themselves, their community, and their everyday life using simple sentences at the Novice High language proficiency level. Students who have demonstrated proficiency at the Novice High level may be enrolled in Spanish, French, or German level two the following year.

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!)*