

ODS Electives – Course Descriptions

6th Grade

Art 6 (Nature, Science and Art) (semester) explores painting, drawing, printmaking, and sculpture building through a variety of skill-based projects. Students will learn how to generate original concepts from their own personal experiences and ideas and translate them into communicative works of art. Whether you are a beginner or an experienced artist, this course will open doors to the way you perceive art making in the 21st century.

Band 6 (semester) is offered to any student who would like to learn how to play a brass, woodwind, or percussion instrument. No prior experience is necessary to become involved in the band program! Each student will use individual mouthpiece testing kits to safely determine the best fit. Students may rent an instrument or free lease from the school if needed. Students will learn introductory music fundamentals, technical achievement, musical understanding, and acquisition of performance skills through a variety of music. Students will perform in at least two concert performances and may audition for All City Band. A few after school rehearsals and concerts will be scheduled throughout the year. Students may sign up for 1st Semester or 1st and 2nd Semester for the full year.

Introduction to Computers (Coding) (semester) This course in creative coding introduces students to computer science as a vehicle for problem solving, communication, and personal expression. This semester focuses on the visible aspects of computing and computer science and encourages students to see where computer science exists around them and how they can engage with it as a tool for exploration and expression. Students will learn block-based coding and then some basic programming using Java. Various projects allow students to creatively show what they have learned. Students will have opportunities to use codable toys as part of their experience.

Intermediate Computer (Coding) (semester) This course in creative coding has students delving into the programming language of Python. Students will be writing and debugging their own code. Students may have a chance to explore other programming languages, as time allows. Various projects allow students to creatively showcase their coding talents. Students will have opportunities to use more codable toys as part of their experience. Prerequisite: Introduction to Computers

Chorus 6 (semester) Like to sing and perform? This course is open to any 6th grade student. Students enrolled participate in concerts, field trips, and local performances. 6th grade chorus students have the opportunity to audition for All-City Chorus in the Spring. In this beginner's course, students will learn aspects of vocal performance through ensemble and solo work. Students will also engage in learning music theory, music history, foreign languages, music literacy skills, keyboarding skills, teamwork, collaboration, and creativity through song composition. There will be occasional after school rehearsals with dates announced well in advance. Students may sign up for 1st Semester or 1st and 2nd Semester for the full year.

Orchestra 6 (year) is designed to develop music fundamentals, technical achievement, and acquisition of performance and rehearsal skills through exposure to a variety of literature. Students in this course will range in ability from the beginner level to having up to three years of experience with an instrument. Several after-school performances and rehearsals will be required.

Theatre I (semester) is a course where students will gain an appreciation for theatre by learning about each aspect of the art form. Students will perform in class through both informal and formal presentations as well as improvisational scene work. Students will learn how theatre has evolved throughout history, and how that influences the way we produce theatre today. By the end of the semester, students will have a solid foundation in theatre on which they can continue to build.

For 7th Grade Electives, see next page

7th Grade

Visual Arts (Art 7) (semester) is drawing, painting, working with clay, and various other art materials! With these materials, you will learn new art techniques, explore the elements of art and principles of design, and express yourself in a creative way! We will discuss art from the past and present and learn how this can influence what we create today.

Band 7 is offered to all students that play or would like to learn to play a wind, brass, or percussion instrument. Most students will have played in band for a year. Extension of musical learning will continue from first-year instruction. Students will develop sight-reading skills, study music theory and will be exposed to a variety of musical literature. **Students without prior instrument experience should contact Mr. Reid before the end of the current school year.**

Chorus 7 is open to any 7th grade student. Students enrolled participate in concerts, field trips, and local performances. 7th grade chorus students have the opportunity to audition for All-City Chorus, and the ODS Assessment Choir/Competition Choir. In this intermediate level course, students will learn aspects of vocal performance through ensemble and solo work. Students will also engage in learning music theory, music history, foreign languages, music literacy skills, keyboarding skills, teamwork, collaboration, and creativity through song composition. **After-school rehearsals will be scheduled in order to prepare for each scheduled performance.**

Introduction to Computers (Coding) (semester) This course in creative coding introduces students to computer science as a vehicle for problem solving, communication, and personal expression. This semester focuses on the visible aspects of computing and computer science and encourages students to see where computer science exists around them and how they can engage with it as a tool for exploration and expression. Students will learn block-based coding and then some basic programming using Java. Various projects allow students to creatively show what they have learned. Students will have opportunities to use codable toys as part of their experience.

Intermediate Computer (Coding) (semester) This course in creative coding has students delving into the programming language of Python. Students will be writing and debugging their own code. Students may have a chance to explore other programming languages, as time allows. Various projects allow students to creatively showcase their coding talents. Students will have opportunities to use more codable toys as part of their experience. **Prerequisite: Introduction to Computers**

Digital Input & Applications (semester) (**One-half high school credit**) This course is designed for students to develop real-world skills for digital citizenship, basic computer operations, keyboarding, and software application. Students in the course will utilize both Google Workspace and Microsoft Office Suite. It is recommended students take this course before Desktop/Multimedia Presentation, but it is not a requirement.

Desktop/Multimedia Presentation (semester) (*One-half high school credit*) is a production-based class where students develop proficiency in designing and creating multimedia and desktop-published projects and WEB sites. Students apply principles of layout and design throughout the course in both Google Workspace and Microsoft Office Suite as they showcase their proficiency through the formation of a working portfolio.

Oral Communications (Theatre II) (semester) is designed for students to extend knowledge and skills acquired in previous theatre coursework. Students will build onto their foundational knowledge of theatre by primarily focusing on technical theatre (costumes, set building, etc.), performance, playwrighting, and directing. Students will learn practical theatre skills (both on stage and off stage) that will prepare them for theatre in high school, the community, and beyond! This course culminates with a class performance. There will be some after-school rehearsals and performances expected in this course. **Students should take Theatre I prior to taking Theatre II.**

Orchestra 7 places an emphasis on the acquisition of skills needed to meet a high standard of musical performance as a soloist and ensemble member. Most of the members have at least one year of orchestra experience and many of those members have two and three years of experience. Musical study will be from several musical skill perspectives including instrumental technique, ensemble performance, sight-reading, music history and music theory. Music repertoire for the class includes Grade III, IV and V levels of difficulty. Several after-school performances and rehearsals will be required. **This class is not intended for beginning players.**

Special Projects (semester) What would you like to learn more about? What do you want to explore? Do you enjoy being creative? Would you like to learn about Marketing and Production? Does presenting a solution to a problem or improving on a design using the Engineering Design Process? Would you like to participate in a Shark Tank simulation? Special Projects is a studentcentered course where students will participate in both teacher-created projects and have the opportunity to direct their own learning that taps into their interests. Projects can include 3D modeling and rapid prototyping, digital photography, graphic design, business creation, game development, Spheros, bridge building, roller-coaster design, animation and more. Students will use a variety of digital tools to create presentations as well as many hands-on learning opportunities. Students will utilize the Engineering Design Process to see how it influences product design and innovation, explore entrepreneurs, implement business and marketing strategies, and create solutions to improve everyday products.

Theatre I (semester) Students will gain an appreciation for theatre by learning about each aspect of the art form. Students will perform in class through both informal and formal presentations as well as improvisational scene work. Students will learn how theatre has evolved throughout history, and how that influences the way we produce theatre today. By the end of the semester, students will have a solid foundation in theatre on which they can continue to build.

Written Communication (semester) This course explores writing as a form of artistic expression. We will venture through the various genres of writing such as fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry by using mentor texts to learn about the elements that make each genre unique. Students will have the opportunity to write about topics about which they are passionate. Through daily journaling, students will get to experiment with new writing techniques and devices. By the end of the semester, students will have a portfolio of writings in various genres and a firm foundation in the craft of writing. **(Students in 8th grade receive scheduling priority for this class.)**

For 8th Grade Electives, see next page

8th Grade

Introduction to Computers (Coding 1) (Semester) This semester course in creative coding introduces students to computer science as a vehicle for problem solving, communication, and personal expression. This semester focuses on the visible aspects of computing and computer science and encourages students to see where computer science exists around them and how they can engage with it as a tool for exploration and expression. Students will learn block-based coding and then some basic programming using Java. Various projects allow students to creatively show what they have learned. Students will have opportunities to use codable toys as part of their experience.

Intermediate Computer Exploratory (Coding 2) (Semester) This semester course in creative coding has students delving into the programming language of Python. Students will be writing and debugging their own code. Students may have a chance to explore other programming languages, as time allows. Various projects allow students to creatively showcase their coding talents. Students will have opportunities to use more codable toys as part of their experience. Prerequisite: Introduction to Computers

Jazz Band (Year) This class will explore the development of Jazz music and the many different styles of Jazz literature.

The class will be limited to traditional Jazz Band instrumentation. All participating students must be enrolled in Band 8 (with exceptions for piano, bass, guitar, and drums). Students must audition with Mr. Reid before being selected for this ensemble.

Oral Communications (Theatre II) (Semester) is a course designed for students to extend knowledge and skills acquired in previous theatre coursework. Students will build onto their foundational knowledge of theatre by primarily focusing on technical theatre (costumes, set building, etc.), performance, playwriting, and directing. Students will learn practical theatre skills (both on stage and off stage) that will prepare them for theatre in high school, the community, and beyond! This course culminates with a class performance. There will be some after-school rehearsals and performances expected in this course. Students should take Theatre I prior to taking Theatre II.

Orchestra 8 (Advanced)(Year) places an emphasis on the acquisition of skills needed to meet a high standard of musical performance as a soloist and ensemble member. Most of the members have at least two years of orchestra experience and many of those members have three and four years of experience. Music repertoire for the class includes Grade IV, V, and VI levels of difficulty. Several after-school performances and rehearsals will be required. This class is not intended for beginning players.

Special Projects (Semester) What would you like to learn more about? What do you want to explore? Do you enjoy being creative? Would you like to learn about Marketing and Production? Does presenting a solution to a problem or improving on a design using the Engineering Design Process? Would you like to participate in a Shark Tank simulation? Special Projects is a student-centered course where students will participate in

both teacher-created projects and have the opportunity to direct their own learning that taps into their interests. Projects can include 3D modeling and rapid prototyping, digital photography, graphic design, business creation, game development, Spheros, bridge building, rollercoaster design, animation and more. Students will use a variety of digital tools to create presentations as well as many hands-on learning opportunities. Students will utilize the Engineering Design Process to see how it influences product design and innovation, explore entrepreneurs, implement business and marketing strategies, and create solutions to improve everyday products.

Theatre I (Semester) is a course where students will gain an appreciation for theatre by learning about each aspect of the art form. Students will perform in class through both informal and formal presentations as well as improvisational scene work. Students will also have the opportunity to design technical theatre elements (such as costumes or set). Students will learn how theatre has evolved throughout history, and how that influences the way we produce theatre today. By the end of the semester, students will have a solid foundation in theatre on which they can continue to build.

Written Communications (Semester) In this course, we will explore writing as a form of artistic expression. We will venture through the various genres of writing such as fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry by using mentor texts to learn about the elements that make each genre unique. Students will have the opportunity to write about topics about which they are passionate. Through daily journaling, students will get to experiment with new writing techniques and devices. By the end of the semester, students will have a portfolio of writings in various genres and a firm foundation in the craft of writing.