

7th/8th Hillview Course Catalog

2023-2024

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7th/8th Grade Trimester Electives

Coding 1

Coding 1 introduces students to the logic of computer science through Scratch. Students then begin to build their competencies with a coding language such as Python or Javascript. They will demonstrate their mastery through project-based learning. Coding is an essential skill for all students, and especially relevant in Silicon Valley. Begin to develop your coding chops in Coding 1!

Note: We are restructuring our elective program and looking to hire someone who has computer science knowledge and experience. Computer science course offerings may shift to match the skills and expertise of the person we hire.

Coding 2

Coding 2 extends the skills students develop in Coding 1, involving students in more challenging activities and/or additional coding languages or platforms (such as App-based programming). If you already have experience with coding, Coding 2 is an option. Otherwise, Coding 1 is a prerequisite for Coding 2. If you love to code and create, and you have prior experience, Coding 2 is for you!

Note: We are restructuring our elective program and looking to hire someone who has computer science knowledge and experience. Computer science course offerings may shift to match the skills and expertise of the person we hire.

Experience Art

Everyone in this class is an artist, and this course has something for everyone! Students will begin with handbuilt clay projects and then take turns using the pottery wheels. Then, students shift into open-ended drawing and painting assignments using colored pencil, oil pastels, watercolors, gouache, and acrylics. Students are expected to try all projects, think creatively, and challenge themselves. In this class, students will learn new techniques and strengthen existing skills. They are asked to utilize these skills to express their own ideas or perspectives through their creations.

Makerspace

Zip Snips, Kleaver Cutters, and Makey Makeys are a few tools you will use in Makerspace! Makerspace is creativity, engagement, perseverance, and craftsmanship at its best! Students in this course will learn how to make a variety of things, from turning random objects into musical instruments, to making moving sculptures from cardboard, to using a laser cutter, to needle felting a small animal. Students will combine art, crafts, engineering, and technology in various ways in this class and are encouraged to experiment and create on their own. Everyone is a maker!

Modern Band

Want to compose and play your own songs? Write music to accompany your videos? Play in a rock band? Learn how to DJ? How to create your own beats and playlists? In this class, we will explore more than just playing in a band (guitar, bass, keyboard & drums) but also expand into sound design and DJing using turntables and the software programs Soundtrap and Garageband. You will also learn how to use microphones and mixing techniques. No experience necessary. Just come, play, learn and explore.

Office, Library or Teacher Aide

Students interested in serving the Hillview community in the library, office or with an assigned teacher for one trimester per year may select this class. Tasks may include filing, stapling, copying, using the paper cutter, running errands, organizing materials, answering the phones, etc. Students may only serve as an aide one trimester per year. Library Aide would help out with all things books! Check in books, check out books, shelve books, and help Mrs. Mathenia make the library a fun, inviting place for all students.

If you are interested in an Aide position, please email your School Counselor (hvcounselor@mpcsd.org) for an application.

Photography and Animation

Do you love watching *Wallace and Gromit* and wonder how stop-motion animation movies are made? Do you love taking photographs? Are you interested in composition and manipulation of photos using photo editing apps? This is your chance to discover the art of animation and photography first-hand! While working in small groups, students will create one claymation animated feature using characters that they sculpt themselves from *sculpey*, a clay-like material. They will also learn about composition, photographing portraits, still-life, and ways to improve their photography through a series of assignments. Students will learn to manipulate their images to create fanciful scenes and draw attention to sections of a photograph. This class focuses on Photography during shorter classes and on animation on block days.

Robotics 1 & 2

Robotics 1 is for those students who enjoy building with Legos. This class will use the principles of simple machines which are combined to create complex machines. Students must be able to work with a partner. Students will compete against each other or against the clock depending on the challenge for their grade. The class all works on the same challenge at the same time. This is not about free-building with Legos; this is about creating a machine that meets the requirements for the challenge and then competes against other machines on multiple measures.

Robotics 2: This is for students in both 7th and 8th grade who like working in a small group setting to program a “roverbot” to beat Mr. Bratt’s Challenges. This class is all about programming, not building the bot; you must be willing to work with a partner. No prior knowledge is necessary, just a desire to learn how to program and fortitude to keep attempting the challenge until you master it. You and your partner will be working at your own pace to complete the nine challenges the teacher has established. Bring your enthusiasm and your own intelligent block and motors if you have them!

Video Production

Lights! Camera! Action! Intro to Video Production will introduce the basics to digital video production such as shot composition, framing and interviewing techniques. Students will work in teams and take part in a creative process that includes project brainstorming, B-roll, digital video editing, titles, graphics and special effects in a series of group projects. In addition, students will interview students and faculty to create special segment news stories, and learn how to create digital special effects. Teams will produce weekly content to be aired on Hillview's own morning news show, HawkTalk. Whether you've always dreamed of being in front of the camera or behind it, this creative class will prepare you for advanced video production. Many student videos will appear on HawkTalk and all students will leave with a digital portfolio of their created work on our own HawkTalk online channel.

Woods

This is a trimester class based on the fundamentals of traditional woodshop. The emphasis for this class is tool safety, proper cutting techniques, and measuring accurately to 1/16 of an inch. Students may take this class multiple times to complete the seven required projects. To request Woods 7/8 more than once in the same school year, please see your counselor; availability for repeating the course is contingent on availability.

Yearbook

Are you interested in helping to create, layout, write, and publish the Hillview Yearbook? Do you have a desire to learn more about graphic design, journalism and the publishing process? Would you like to help take pictures and capture the events at Hillview this year? This hands-on elective is for you!

7/8 Grade Year-Long Electives

Advanced Art

Do you love art and enjoy being creative? Students who choose to take this class are confident in their art skills; however, the class will include students of varying ability levels. Projects will be more in-depth than trimester-long courses and will cover more mediums and skills. Students will work on a sculpture unit, including working on the pottery wheel. They will also work on a drawing and painting unit, which focuses on observational drawing, perspective, shading, and layering of paint. Students will paint on canvases and a mural for the school. Projects will reflect students' interests and abilities and everyone will work at their own pace. Students will end with a final thematic project in the medium of their choice. We will also have the opportunity to work on special projects that bridge school and community.

ASB (Leadership)

Note: This is an application only class and executive board positions are by election. Rising 8th graders only! Application information will be shared via HawkTalk and Schoology in May 2022 and on the Parent Newsletter through PTO.

Ready to help lead the school in planning events, fundraisers, clubs, and other school activities?

ASB (Leadership) is a year long elective that offers a team of students the chance to run Hillview activities calendar, budget, and so much more to serve the students and community of Hillview Middle School.

Pre-requisites (This class will be manually input by the counselors based on the election/application results and may not be selected without completing the application process.)

- Rising 8th Graders only
- Completed Trimester 3 Application Packet (TBA May 2022)
- (For Executive Board only) Participation in Executive Board Student Council Election.
- Occasional 8am arrival and after school events.

Band 2

Let's Get Playing! Join our thriving band! The 7th and 8th Band performs at formal concerts, the Menlo Park Halloween Parade, CMEA festivals and various assembly programs. We also perform with the M-A bands and every-other year, we partake in regional and statewide tours. Don't forget our annual DISNEYLAND trip! Daily rehearsals are spent working on the development of music fundamentals and building ensemble skills. Students will perform music from a variety of genres and styles (classical, pop, jazz, world culture). Students will be expected to attend possible after school rehearsals and all evening performances.

French 1A

Bonjour! Do you want to increase your brain's elasticity, find your way around Paris, and order crêpes in Québec? Then French is your language! In this fun course, you will learn basic communication skills including listening, speaking, reading, and writing as well as gain an appreciation of Francophone cultures. You will learn to communicate in everyday situations through dialogues, oral presentations, projects and group activities. You will strengthen your English vocabulary (as $\frac{1}{3}$ of our words come from French) and be able to communicate with the over 300 million people who speak French on 5 continents!

NOTE: This is the first year of a two-year program. Students are expected to continue with a second year of study in French 1B to complete the course. French 1A is equivalent to a half-year of high school French 1, and will have academic requirements.

For more information about Hillview's World Language Pathways and requirements, please visit [this flow chart](#).

French 1B

Bonjour! Did you take French 1A last year? In this fun course, you will build on your French communication skills including listening, speaking, reading, and writing as well as gain an appreciation of Francophone cultures. You will learn to communicate in everyday situations through dialogues, oral presentations, projects and group activities. You will strengthen your English vocabulary (as 1/3 of our words come from French) and be able to communicate with the over 300 million people who speak French on 5 continents!

NOTE: This is the second year of a two-year program. Successful completion of this course will prepare students to move on to French 2 at Hillview or High School. French 1B is equivalent to the second half of high school French 1, and will have academic requirements.

For more information about Hillview's World Language Pathways and requirements, please visit [this flow chart](#).

French 2

Bonjour! Ça va? Can you already order food in a French restaurant, shop for clothes in Paris, and talk about your activities in French? The next step in your language learning will be to learn more complex grammar and improve your communication skills. You will tell stories in the past tense, talk about daily routines, and read short novels in French while continuing the study of Francophone cultures. Get ready, because all students are expected to ***parlez en français!***

NOTE: This is a rigorous academic elective equivalent to a high school world languages course. Students must be highly self-motivated and prepared to dedicate a regular amount of time to daily homework beyond their other academic classes. Successful completion of this course will prepare students to move on to French 3 in High School.

For more information about Hillview's World Language Pathways and requirements, please visit [this flow chart](#).

HawkTalk

Ready to run your own television show as the voice of Hillview Middle School? Always dreamed of being in front of the camera? More of a behind-the-scenes person? We need both types of leaders!

HawkTalk is a year-long elective that offers a team of students the chance to plan Hillview's morning announcements to serve the students and community of Hillview Middle School.

This class is about being the voice of the students! Using professional equipment, students will run the broadcast studio cameras, teleprompters, soundboard, lighting equipment, microphones, and the video switcher powered by NewTek Tricaster to produce a morning show that the entire school will see. Students will also have the option of appearing on camera as the morning news anchors.

Orchestra 2

Make New Friends! Play Great Music! In Orchestra class, students work on expanding their string technique, knowledge, and ensemble skills while performing a wide variety of music of differing styles and genres. The Orchestra performs in formal concerts, as well as, other activities that have included CMEA music festivals, tours to elementary schools, performances and activities with the M-A Orchestra, master-classes, exchanges with other schools and touring to Disneyland. **YES! DISNEYLAND!** Students will be expected to attend possible after school rehearsals and all evening performances.

Spanish 1A

¡Hola amigos! Are you excited about learning a new language so you can communicate with friends, family, or people in other countries? In this class, students will focus on learning basic communication skills in Spanish including listening, speaking, reading, and writing as well as gain an appreciation of Hispanic cultures.

NOTE: This is the first year of a two-year program. Students are expected to continue with a second year of study in Spanish 1B to complete the course. Spanish 1A is equivalent to a half-year of high school Spanish 1, and will have academic requirements.

For more information about Hillview's World Language Pathways and requirements, please visit [this flow](#)

[chart.](#)

Spanish 1B

¡Hola amigos! This class follows the same structure as Spanish 1A. Students will build on their Spanish communication skills including listening, speaking, reading, and writing as well as continue their study of Hispanic cultures. This is the second year of a two-year program. Students who complete this course will be ready for Spanish 2 at Hillview or in high school.

For more information about Hillview's World Language Pathways and requirements, please visit [this flow chart.](#)

Spanish 1

¡Hola amigos! This is a fast-paced traditional language instruction program. In this class, students will focus on learning basic communication skills in Spanish including listening, speaking, reading, and writing as well as gain an appreciation of Hispanic cultures. It covers the same material as the two-year program (1A & 1B) in a much more concentrated manner.

NOTE: This is a rigorous academic elective equivalent to a high school world languages course. Students must be highly self-motivated and prepared to dedicate a regular amount of time to daily homework beyond their other academic classes. Successful completion of this course is required to move on to Spanish 2.

For more information about Hillview's World Language Pathways and requirements, please visit [this flow chart.](#)

Spanish 2

¡Hola amigos! In this class, students will learn more complex grammar and verb tenses. Students will improve on their communication skills in Spanish including listening, speaking, reading, and writing as well as continue their study of Hispanic cultures. ¡Get ready to *habla español!*

NOTE: This is a rigorous academic elective equivalent to a high school world languages course. Students must be highly self-motivated and prepared to dedicate a regular amount of time to daily homework in addition to their other academic classes. Successful completion of this course is required for students to be recommended for Spanish 3 in high school.

For more information about Hillview's World Language Pathways and requirements, please visit [this flow chart](#).

Spanish for Spanish Speakers 2 & 3

¡Bienvenidos amigos! Students will continue with their study of Spanish grammar, vocabulary and culture through daily opportunities to read, write, listen and speak in Spanish. They will pursue mastery of indicative, subjunctive and imperative verb forms, and will have ample opportunities to use the language and develop advanced vocabulary through novel study, cooking, art and other hands-on activities. Students will create their own video lessons and other multimedia presentations to reinforce their knowledge of concepts and to present the information to their classmates. While composing multi-paragraph responses and essays, students will practice advanced grammar and vocabulary as they seek to strengthen their fluency and depth of knowledge in Spanish language. The language of instruction in the class is 100% in Spanish. Students are expected to communicate 100% of the time in Spanish in this course. The Level 2 course is for 7th graders, and the Level 3 course is for 8th graders.

Students who successfully complete Spanish for Spanish Speakers 3, in addition to other criteria, can earn the California Biliteracy Attainment award upon graduation from Hillview.

For more information about Hillview's World Language Pathways and requirements, please visit [this flow chart](#).

Qu3ST

Qu3ST is an acronym standing for Quiet Sustained and Supported Study Time, and it is a class open to all students during the 7th period (last period of the day). This important time provides students with essential academic support before the school day ends, allows them to get a jump start on homework, use extra time to complete a task, or to ask questions about difficult concepts. Qu3ST will be staffed by one of the student's academy teachers.

PE Electives

Advanced Dance

Are you an experienced dancer that can perform double pirouettes, a la seconde turns, jumps, and complex rhythmic patterns? Do you want to refine your dance skills and represent Hillview in performances? Then Advanced Dance is the class for you! Join other seventh and eighth graders in this rigorous year-long dance class as we learn about a variety of genres and styles of dance, which may include, but are not limited to jazz, hip hop, modern, tap, ballet, musical theater, and ethnically-based dance forms. Students will develop the following dance concepts:

- Dance technique
- Choreography and performance skills
- Practice various related fitness crazes such as pilates, yoga, Kickboxing, and more!

So You Think You Can Dance?! Join us in a high-energy class to develop your talents and earn PE credit.

This class will perform in the Hillview Dance Show.

Advanced Dance requires instructor approval. Please sign up for Hillview on the Move and email Mrs. DeAnda at kdeanda@mpcsd.org to indicate your interest.

Hillview on Move 7/8

Do you like to dance? Do you want to learn to represent Hillview in performances? Join other seventh and eighth graders in this year-long introductory class as we learn about a variety of dance styles, fitness techniques, and health concepts. You do not need to be flexible or have previous dance experience; you just have to be willing to participate. Students will develop the following skills:

- Explore various dance styles (hip-hop, jazz, and modern)
- Learn the basic elements of dance: body, energy, space, and time.
- Practice various related fitness crazes such as pilates, yoga, kickboxing, and more!
- Create choreography and refine performance skills.

Come and join us in a high-energy class to develop your talents and earn PE credit. **This class will perform in the Hillview Dance Show.**

Zero Period Electives

Beginning Band/Strings

Did you stop playing after 4th grade? Do you want to try a completely different instrument? Switch from Violin to Tuba? Or just do something fun and musical? Sign up for either Beginning Band or Beginning Strings! We will meet once a week before school from 7:35-8:20. Beginning Band will meet on Tuesdays and Beginning Strings will meet on Thursdays. This is open to all grade levels. If you have prior experience and just need to get caught back up, do this class for a couple of weeks and then rejoin the regular class (based upon Mr. Vaughan's recommendation). Whatever your musical desire, it can begin here. Questions? See Mr. Vaughan! (rvaughan@mpcsd.org)

Jazz Band

The Hillview Jazz Band meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. Entrance is by audition. Auditions are held the first week of school. Students are expected to be members in good standing of the regular band and orchestra classes. The music is rooted in swing but also delves into rock, funk and Latin genres. Students learn how to solo over chord changes, understand the historical periods of jazz and have fun playing America's first true musical art form. All instruments are welcome to audition. Students should have at least one year of study on their instrument. Guitarists should be able to read chords and traditionally notated rhythms. Drummers must be able to play in a swing, Latin and rock/funk style. For General information and Audition Materials:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1cUEwVHnP96GeladUZI4OW57K6KXhUF1YaDu21GOuDLs/edit?usp=sharing>

Questions? Contact Mr. Vaughan! (rvaughan@mpcsd.org)

