

# 8TH GRADE YEAR LONG ELECTIVES

## **Game Design:**

Students will expand their knowledge to various disciplines, such as art, logic processes, music, math, and creative writing. Students will be designing their own game using these skills and creating something that is unique to them. Through this class students will be given the opportunity to express themselves creatively and learn about the process in combining these various disciplines into a single product. Students learn to better understand the world of gaming media; to reach beyond simply playing them, and to appreciate the work and thought that goes into them. Game design created through "RPG Maker MZ", "Godot", and "FlowLab."

## **T.V. Production/Computers-Multimedia:**

In T.V. Production you will be trained in video technology, wherein you will be using the latest video technology to inform, educate and at times entertain the school community with television programming. You will be introduced to a number of technical and non-technical skills, including script writing, directing, and hands-on camera and studio skills such as lighting, sound and editing. You will be part of the Bret Harte News Crew, providing daily announcements which will stream LIVE through our class YouTube channel. You will also edit live video using iMovie or Final Cut Pro X, as well learn how to use advanced features of the Adobe Cloud App, including Photoshop Elements and many more!

## **Robotics/Jr. Engineering:**

This class gives students the opportunity to research, build and test working robots, rockets, and automobiles. Working in teams, students learn to design and program their robots to perform specific tasks. Students will also use solid modeling software to design and create computer models of three-dimensional objects and machines. No prior computer programming or model building experience is necessary.

## **Band:**

This course is for students who wish to learn to play, or already play a band instrument. Instrument choices include flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, tuba and percussion. No prior experience is necessary to participate in the class. **\*Performances outside of the school day are required.**

## **Drama 1 and 2:**

If you enjoy performing on stage, or at least the idea of it, this is the class for you! This year-long class will focus on acting techniques in order to develop and build character, participate in other performance skills, such as singing and dancing, as well as strengthen collaborative group projects, and assisting in directing and choreography. The students will apply theatre skills by performing in two major performances each year as well as smaller classroom presentations. **Play performances will require after-school rehearsals and evening performance attendance, and will be part of the Drama grade.** Fall performances will be in December, and Spring performances will be in May.

**Advanced Art:**

Course Specifics: Drawing, Design, Color, Painting, Mixed Media, and Sculpture. Pablo Picasso once said, "Every child is an artist, the problem is how to remain an artist as we grow up." The Art class is a place where dreams are celebrated and a course where the imaginary worlds in which you escape can become a reality. The goal of this class is to learn the skills of drawing, painting, and sculpture. Students who complete this course will have an understanding in communicating personal beliefs and interests through technical Art skill. We will continue to create the impossible and remember that creativity inspires ideas, and ideas inspire change.

**Publications/Journalism:**

In publications you will work with writing, computer-based layout designs, taking/editing photos, designing, and publishing Bret Harte's school newspaper. You will also participate in BretGazette.com, Bret Harte Publications' own website to blog and report on school news, upload photos, and write editorials. You will also work on the production of the school yearbook. We use the computer Chromebook Cart almost daily and learn concise writing, Google Drawings and photography skills. Our yearbook is an online experience with templates and/or your design creativity. Publications is a class with deadlines and word-count minimums, and students are needed who can commit to covering school groups, events, and activities--as a member of a group or team. Come be the voice for your school!

**Leadership:**

This year long activity class provides students with the opportunity to acquire and develop a wide array of leadership skills through the development, participation, and management of events and programs aimed at enhancing school climate and community. Students are tasked with creating and participating in rallies, dances, campus beautification, recycling, Cornerstone activities, community service projects and ASB related functions. Throughout the process of developing, managing, and conducting these, and other activities, students will learn critical life skills with an emphasis on communication, both oral and written, character development, time management, and the continual improvement of personal habits.

**Spanish:**

This course has the same language expectations and student outcomes as the Spanish 1 -2 courses taught at the District's high schools. Students are introduced and expected to develop basic grammar through the practice of useful structures, forms, and vocabulary. The student will be given opportunities to speak, read, write and listen for comprehension. Instruction emphasizes fluency and accurate pronunciation. An appreciation of the cultures of Spanish speaking people will be developed through the study of customs, traditions, history, and geography. This is a High School equivalent class and will be reported on your transcripts to colleges. \*\* Students enrolled in Spanish must take and pass a District Exit Exam to receive high school credit for the work completed in the yearlong course. Student grades will be based on classroom quizzes, unit tests, classroom performance in listening, speaking, reading and writing, and completion of assignments/projects.