

FULL YEAR MUSIC CLASSES

Classes with * require a fee. (Some financial assistance is available.)

BEGINNING BAND*: Band is a FUN class where you will learn to play a wind or percussion instrument. There are 12 instruments in total you will try out such as the clarinet, saxophone, trumpet and drums. No previous music experience necessary. If you love music, band is the place for you! You do not need to own/buy your own instrument. We will talk about the rental process at the start of the year. You can do sports AND band! Many of our students are athletes and play in band, this is why band is the largest group at Tony Hillerman! In beginning band, you will learn to read music, and play your instruments. We have one field trip for beginning band in the fall and put on 4 concerts over the course of the year.

BEGINNING ORCHESTRA*: (No musical experience necessary!) Beginning Orchestra is an entry-level course open to all students. Students will learn to play an instrument of their choice in the string family: the Violin, the Viola, the Cello or the String Bass, while exploring many genres of music, including fiddling, rock/pop, jazz, and classical. Instrumental rentals are available for an additional small fee.

BEGINNING CHORUS*: If you love to sing but you have never had to courage or opportunity to sing with a group of friends, Beginning Chorus is the place for you! This year-long course is the perfect place to start your singing career because it consists entirely of students who are new to being in choir. We will learn and perform songs from a variety of genres and centuries while learning basic choral singing skills. This ensemble will perform in four evening concerts for friends and family throughout the year. Fun activities in class include: Masked Singer Mystery Videos, Lip Sync for Your Life Battles, and Karaoke days!

BEGINNING GUITAR*: Ever wanted to learn guitar? Now's your chance! You'll learn how to play along to your favorite songs and gain a skill you can carry with you the rest of your life. No previous musical experience necessary, and open to all grade levels! We will learn chords, how to use a pick, and play and listen to a variety of music! Grab that guitar from your closet and come join us! Rentals are available for a small fee.

INTERMEDIATE BAND: Intermediate Band. It is open to all those who have successfully completed the requirements of Beginning Band (or the equivalent through private study). This class serves as a safe less stressful environment for students to develop their skills and grow as musicians. The class size will be smaller to accommodate more students needs. The goal of this class is to prepare students for our more competitive ensembles ("Concert band", and Symphonic band")

INTERMEDIATE BAND 2 (Advanced) "Concert band/Cadet band" *: *INSTRUCTOR PERMISSION/AUDITION REQUIRED
Intermediate Band. It is open to all those who have successfully completed the requirements of Beginning Band (or the equivalent through private study). Placement in either Intermediate band 1 or 2 is based on an audition. This class continues the development of performance skills by performing 4 concerts at THMS as well as participate in the district VII Music Festival The goal of this class is to prepare students for Symphonic band. Fun and engaging music is at the core of this group, and with this new level comes the ability to join additional (optional) music groups such as Jazz band, where secondary instruments can be learned such as guitar, piano, drums, and bass.

SYMPHONIC BAND: *INSTRUCTOR PERMISSION/AUDITION REQUIRED
Symphonic Band is the top performing band at THMS and is comprised of mostly 8th grade students with 2+ years of instrument experience. Students refine their musicianship and play much more difficult music. The goal of Symphonic band is to prepare kids for High School band. This class will participate in the District VII Festival, as well as the State Band Contest as well. Symphonic band puts on 6+ concerts a year and has an overnight field trip in the spring semester.

ADVANCED CHORUS*: Teacher Approval Required. If you were in choir for the 2021-2022 school year, you're approved! Advanced Chorus is the top choir at our school! This year-long course consists of 7th and 8th grade students who have experience singing in a choir. We will learn and perform intermediate- and advanced-level songs from a variety of genres and centuries while refining our choral singing skills. Advanced Chorus will perform in four evening concerts for friends and family throughout the year and will also represent Tony Hillerman Middle School at the district's annual Music Performance Assessment Festival. Fun activities in class include: Masked Singer Mystery Videos, Lip Sync for Your Life Battles, and Karaoke days!

ADVANCED ORCHESTRA* (Prerequisite: Beginning Orchestra or one-year experience) Advanced Orchestra is a yearlong music course open to all middle school students, who have successfully completed the requirements of Beginning (or the equivalent through private study). This class continues development of performance skills with the addition of more complex repertoire with melody, harmony, and a bass line. It is a continuation of challenging individual and group experiences for students. Students at this level place a priority on gaining expertise in a variety of musical styles. There is a one-time \$25.00 lab fee which includes the orchestra spirit shirt. Instrumental rentals are available on a first come, first serve basis for an additional fee.

RELATED ARTS / ELECTIVES – Course Descriptions 2024 - 2025

FULL YEAR CLASSES

Classes with * require a fee. (Some financial assistance is available.)

(7th grade) Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) is an academic elective course that prepares students for high school/college readiness and success. Each week, students receive instruction utilizing a rigorous curriculum provided by AVID Center, tutor-facilitated tutorial groups, motivational activities and academic success skills. In AVID, students participate in activities that incorporate strategies focused on writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization and reading to support their academic growth.

(8th grade) Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) is an academic elective course that prepares students for high school/college readiness and success. Each week, students receive instruction utilizing a rigorous curriculum provided by AVID Center, tutor-facilitated tutorial groups, motivational activities and academic success skills. In AVID, students participate in activities that incorporate strategies focused on writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization and reading to support their academic growth.

Student Leadership Student Leadership is a course for students who seek opportunities to expand and deepen their group and individual leadership skills to positively impact their own lives and community. Building on collaborative skills and habits of mind, students will gain knowledge and expertise in leadership skills including goal setting, effective communication, organization, time management, and collaborative strategies. The course is customized to meet the needs of formal student organizations such as student council. The course prepares students not only for active participation in school but also in their community. Students solve relevant and current school and community issues by working collaboratively and independently on high-level, real-world tasks such as project proposals, portfolios, and presentations.

Video Announcements (8th grade only – Ms. Newsome): Morning Announcements class is an elective that will produce daily announcements that will be aired school wide to spread information regarding school happenings and updates. These announcements will be created by the students in this class and uploaded to a youtube channel that will be shared with the school and community via website and email. ***You must apply to be in this class. Only those who complete an interview will be considered.*** Must have great attendance, positive attitude, and be kind towards others. **Must be on the teacher's list, cannot sign up in synergy.**

Yearbook (8th grade only – Ms. Kristen Mitchell): Do you like to work with other students? Do you want to create a lasting reminder of the current school year? Do you like to take photos and create stories? Have you ever wondered how we get all of those photos in that book? Are you a take charge person? Are you awesome with deadlines and responsibilities? Then, The Yearbook Staff is looking for someone just like you to help us out. **Must be on the teacher's list, cannot sign up in synergy, reach out to the teacher.**

GIFTED SEMINAR II – 07378b: (Gifted only) This is a STEM, Project Based Learning class, where we embrace a form of curriculum design focused on student engagement, innovation, and creative problem solving. This class will engage students in their education by grounding lessons in real-world problems and encourage them to develop creative solutions. We will incorporate role playing into everyday learning, get students to understand the life-long relevance of what they are learning, and assess multiple skills and subject areas in an integrated way.

GIFTED SEMINAR III – 0737c: (Gifted only) Fine Arts. This course offers a multitude of project work that ranges from exploration of the graffiti art genre, to examining the messages of literature and art around the world. We will create environmental slam poetry and design surreal 3-D sculptures of universal concepts. Photography, music, biological art, forensics and world religions are a few more of the topics this gifted fine arts class will address. Be prepared for an intelligent and fun experience that addresses relevant issues through the fine art lens!

SEMESTER CLASSES

Classes with * require a fee. (Some financial assistance is available.)

ART I*: This course is designed to provide students with the foundations of artistic expression! Students will be introduced to the elements and principles of art and design, and explore a variety of media to communicate their ideas creatively! The course includes introductions to 2D techniques, like drawing, painting, collage, and printmaking, to 3D techniques, such as ceramics, embroidery, and soft sculpture. Art is all about trying new things, having fun, expressing yourself, and getting a little messy.

COMPUTER SCIENCE/CODING/WebDesign*: Are in interested in computer programming and coding? Do you want to learn how to create your own computer games or apps? Then this class is for you. No coding experience is needed! In the semester you will learn the basics of creating an app, programming an interactive game, and even how to debug code. You will see how CS is used in lots of different careers. Various coding languages will be used with an emphasis on Python.

RELATED ARTS / ELECTIVES – Course Descriptions 2024 - 2025

HOME EC/FOODS*: You will learn the basic fundamentals of the kitchen, including how to cook safely. Anything from freshly made cinnamon roll pancakes, with a cream cheese frosting syrup, to gooey chocolate chip cookies. Hungry yet? Come join us in Foods, where hard work turns into great tasting meals.

HERO'S JOURNEY: This class will use the Hero's Journey lens to analyze films in the Marvel Cinematic Universe. We'll begin by understanding Joseph Campbell's monomyth theory called the Hero's Journey. Then, we'll apply that theory to decide where and how it fits with the movies of Phases 1-3 of the Marvel universe. We'll watch at least one film per week and then have activities related to that film where we explore the plot and conflicts as well as looking at character development. Some of the key movies will include: Iron Man, Captain America, Avengers, Spider-Man, Black Panther, and so much more! Expect a lot of films, good discussions, and some written work to show off what you've learned.

MESA (Math, Engineering, Science) The M.E.S.A. elective is a one semester class that is designed to allow students the opportunity to use critical thinking skills to complete hands-on activities, such as mousetrap cars, air rockets and toothpick bridges. The course also demonstrates the use of science and experiments in real life careers. The goal of the course is to enhance a student's interest in science and math as well as demonstrate that a career in the STEM field is within their reach.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 8 (8th grade only): This is a class for students to engage in competitive sports and adopt healthy lifestyles. This course provides students the continuing opportunity to learn through a comprehensive sequentially planned physical education program. Students will develop positive behaviors in fitness, wellness, and movement activities. Units of activity may include: Cooperative activities and games. Movement skills and strategies applied in modified games of: flag football, volleyball, basketball, floor hockey, soccer, softball, ultimate Frisbee, dodgeball and other sports.

PROBLEM SOLVING/SEMINAR: This is not a math class. This elective is designed to allow students the opportunity to use critical thinking skills to complete hands-on activities. This is a Project Based Learning class, where we embrace a form of curriculum design focused on student engagement, innovation, and creative problem solving.

ROCK & ROLL LIT: Students in this class will be encouraged to look at Rock & Roll, and music in general, in a new way. The traits of literature are also found in the sounds, lyrics, performers, and history of Rock & Roll. This course will explore these literary and expressive ideas. This class will emphasize creativity, curiosity, and the appreciation of music. Activities and assignments will include art, videos, reading, writing, and online research. Literature is read and our music will be heard.

STUDENT AIDE (8th grade only): You must have A's and B's, excellent behavior and good attendance this year to be an aide for next year. Student's must still choose an elective on the course request card, and one will be replaced if you are accepted as an aide. You must fill in the Student Aide Request Form (located at the front desk) and turn it into Ms. Debra Parker, our front office secretary, by March 25, 2024. The teacher you choose must sign the form, including the front office reception area and librarian.