

Music

K-5

Singing and Moving with Joy

From playful songs in Kindergarten to more complex melodies in 5th grade, students learn to use their voices as instruments! They sing alone and together, exploring rhythm, pitch, and expression — all while building confidence and teamwork.

Playing Instruments and Creating Music

Students experience the thrill of making music with classroom instruments — from rhythm sticks and drums to recorders, xylophones and ukuleles! They learn to keep a steady beat, play patterns, and compose their own short pieces.

Listening and Responding to Music

Music class builds active listeners! Students learn to recognize instruments, describe what they hear, and connect music to feelings, stories, and cultures around the world.

Reading and Writing Music

As students grow, they begin to read and write basic musical symbols — understanding notes, rhythms, and dynamics. By upper elementary, they can follow written music and even create their own!

Connecting Music to Life and Learning

Music isn't just a subject — it's a bridge to creativity, culture, and community. Students connect what they learn in music to history, art, language, and math, developing a deeper appreciation for how music shapes our world.

Sixth Grade Specials: Performing Arts

Orchestra: Let Your Musical Journey Begin!

- Develop foundational playing techniques on a string instrument of your choice: violin, viola, cello, or double bass.
- Collaborate with peers to practice, perform, read, and compose music; building confidence and creativity.
- Strengthen leadership skills, teamwork, and musical expression through ensemble performance.



Band: The Beginning of Your Award-Winning Mason Band Journey!

- Develop foundational playing techniques on the woodwind or brass instrument of your choice: flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, euphonium, or tuba.
- Have fun collaborating with peers to practice, perform, and read music; building confidence and creativity!
- Strengthen leadership skills, teamwork, and musical expression through ensemble performance.



🎵 6th Grade Choir: Discover the joy of singing together while building confidence, teamwork, and musicianship!

- Learn proper vocal technique and harmony singing
- Perform in concerts and special events throughout the year
- Build lasting friendships through music and collaboration



🎭 Theater Lab: Step into the spotlight to explore acting, storytelling, and creativity through theater experiences!

- Create and perform original short plays and puppet shows
- Learn acting, movement, and ensemble performance skills
- Develop confidence, imagination, and collaboration on stage

STEAM

Science Technology Engineering Art Mathematics

1-6

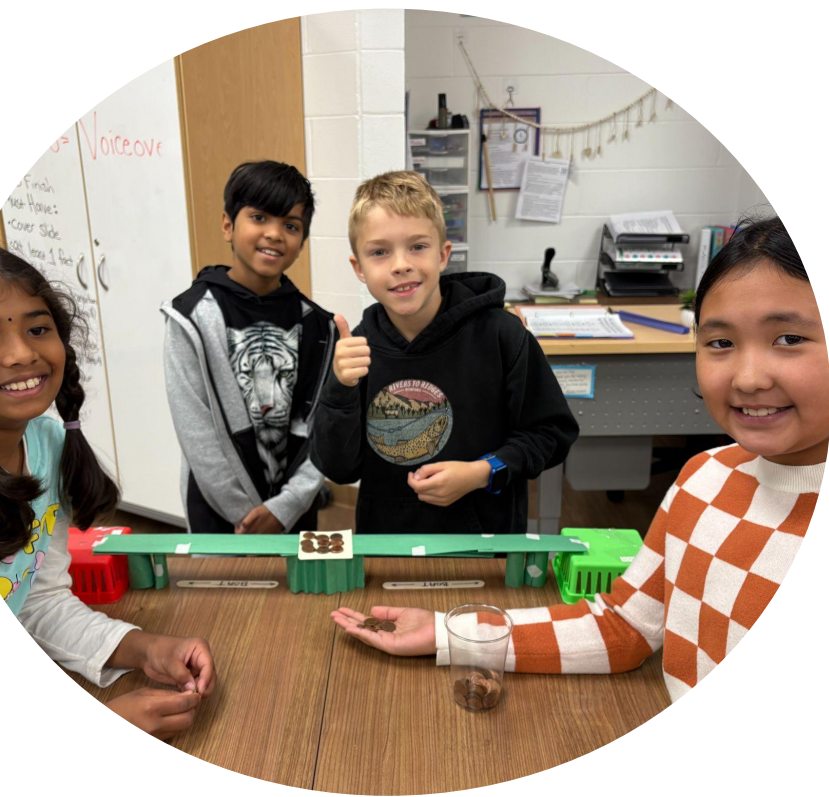
Engineering and Using the Design Process

Your child is learning to be a real-world problem-solver! They are deeply engaged in the powerful cycle of the Engineering & Design Process, learning to Ask, Imagine, Plan, Create, Improve and Share. This is the foundational mindset that turns curiosity into amazing solutions for real-life challenges—from designing a stronger bridge to creating a solution for a local community need!



Coding and Robotics

Our kids are learning the universal language of the future! Through coding and robotics, they are mastering computational thinking—not just passively using technology, but actively programming it to solve puzzles, automate tasks, and bring their ideas to life. They are learning to think with logic and precision as they command their digital creations!



Makerspace

Get ready for innovation! Our students are exploring, inventing, and building in the Makerspace, a dynamic, hands-on lab where creativity has no limits. By turning simple materials into spectacular creations, they are cultivating the essential skills of tinkering, collaboration, and rapid prototyping, developing the entrepreneurial spirit of a future inventor!




3D Design

Watch your student's imagination jump off the page! They are learning to use professional-level 3D design tools to develop and model their creations, transforming abstract ideas into concrete, measurable blueprints. They are mastering the art of spatial reasoning and digital drafting, literally designing the future, one tangible object at a time!

Digital Storytelling and Communication

Your child is becoming a brilliant, modern communicator! They are learning to harness digital tools (like audio, video, and animation) to share their research, scientific explanations, and project results. This skill empowers them to evaluate and communicate information effectively, ensuring their brilliant ideas resonate in our digital world!




Visual Arts

K-6




Creativity + Choice = Confident Artists

From Kindergarten through 6th grade, Mason students choose, imagine, and create—building confidence through visual art! Students use their own ideas, imagination and experiences to create art that is personal and meaningful.



Sharp Skills & Smart Thinking

The Mason elementary art department develops technical skills through critical thinking. Kids learn the elements and principles of art (line, color, shape, texture, form), experiment with supplies, and reflect on their work. We practice art skills, think like artists & sharpen our minds!




Connecting to Culture, Community, & Other Subjects

The Mason Visual Arts Standards call for students to connect their art to other disciplines, through culture, history, and society. As they craft, students understand the value of their art to our community. Art meets history, science, culture & community!

Exploring Media & Modern Expression

Students create, manipulate and play with art through various supplies & technology. Mason City Schools provide a variety of materials for children to express themselves and interpret messages in the visual world around them. Students have access to modern tools that add magic to creative expression!



Appreciation, Reflection & Lifelong Learning

Mason students can respond to art, interpret the meaning of art, and see art as something valuable for a lifetime. By 6th grade students understand how art provides opportunity for self reflection and the importance of lifelong involvement in visual arts. We explore, reflect and learn—building artists for life!



Middle School Visual Arts



Why Visual Arts?

Visual arts encourage you to think outside the box, experiment, and express ideas in new ways. Creativity is a valuable skill in *any* career - from design and marketing to science and engineering. A Visual Arts background builds *transferable skills* - creativity, visual literacy, design thinking, communication, collaboration, flexibility, project management, and critical thinking. All of these are valuable skills across *many industries*, even tech, science, businesses and education.

Jobs Related to Art

Fine Artist, Illustrators, Toy Design, Fabric Design, Architecture, Industrial Design, Display Artist, Gallery Directors, Photographer, Special Effects, Set Designer, Lighting Designer, Creative Director, Animator, Advertising Designer, Digital Illustrator, Graphic Designer, Interior Designer, User Interface, Video Game Designer...



Exploration in Art - 8th grade

Step into the world of art with a high school credit course for 8th graders! You'll explore everything from traditional art (drawing, painting, sculpture) to modern techniques (metalworking, glass fusing, alcohol ink, and computer graphics). Earn 0.5 high school credits per semester while learning, experimenting, and expressing your creative side!

Digital Image Design - 8th grade

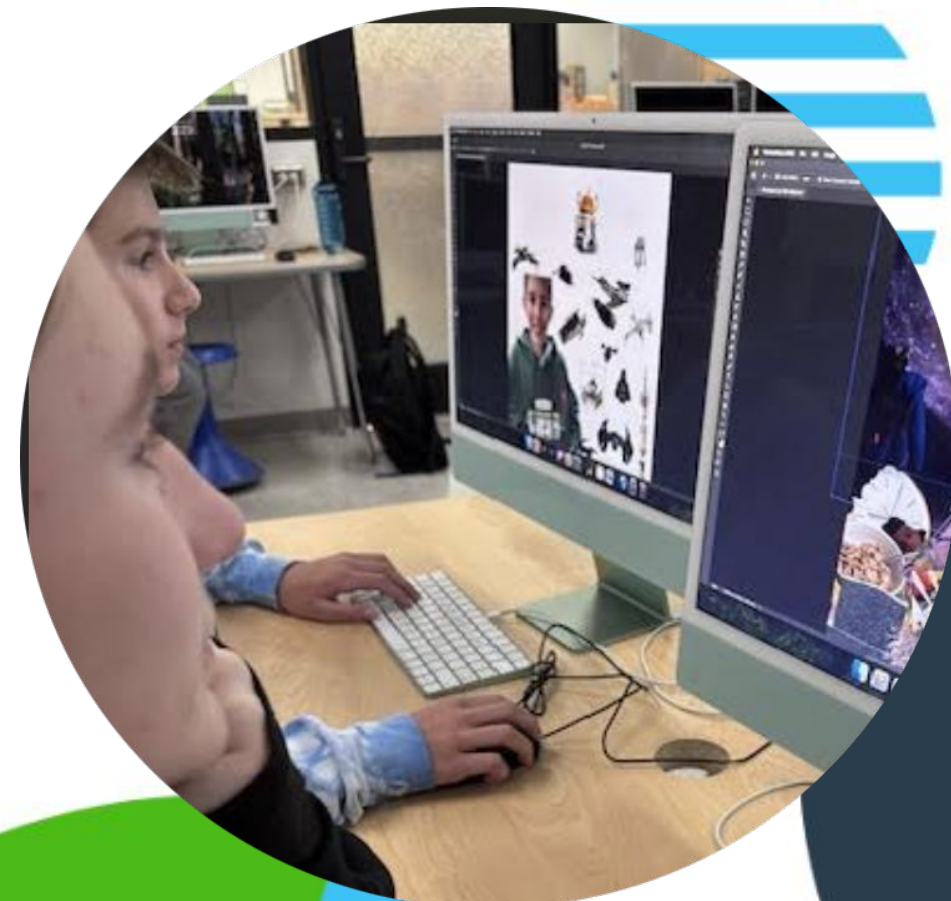
Eighth graders explore the basics of Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop, learning introductory tools to create amazing projects and express their own unique ideas. Students unleash their creativity, create exciting digital designs, and develop skills used in the real world. This one-semester course is fun, hands-on, and earns 0.5 high school credit!

7th Grade Visual Art - Every day (one semester)

Explore fun art units that enable you to sculpt, paint, draw, print & create your very own sketchbook! Let your imagination run wild as you get to think like an artist. In this class, you choose what images and media you will use for each unit project!

7th Grade Art - Every other day (all year)

Unleash your inner artist as you dive into exciting projects in printmaking, fiber arts, sculpting, drawing, and painting! The projects will be different from the Visual Art course. You will get to use your creativity as you have fun expressing your ideas through many different art forms.



Physical Education K-6

Skills That Make Us Super Movers

Kids learn to run, jump, roll, kick, catch, throw, and dance their way into becoming confident, coordinated movers who love being active.

Learning How Our Bodies Work

Students become movement scientists—discovering how balance, strength, strategy, and practice help them play games and master new skills.

Building Strong, Healthy Bodies

From warm-ups to fun challenges, kids learn how to stay active, build endurance, and make choices that help them feel their best every day.

Teamwork, Respect & Playing Fair

Students practice cheering others on, sharing equipment, taking turns, solving problems, and being awesome teammates—on and off the field.

Finding the Joy in Movement

Kids discover that being active is exciting—whether they're racing, dancing, climbing, or trying something new. Movement becomes something to love for life!

Growing Strong in Body, Heart & Mind

Across K-6, students learn what it means to take care of themselves and others. They build healthy habits, explore nutrition and safety, learn how their bodies work, practice managing emotions, strengthen friendships, and make decisions that help them thrive. By sixth grade, students understand that being healthy isn't just one thing — it's a combination of smart choices, strong relationships, active bodies, and confident minds that support them every day.



Middle School Health & Physical Education

Health Education FAQs

Do students take Health for a high school credit in 8th grade?
Yes! Students who sign up for health in 8th grade are taking the high school level class. The GRADE and CREDIT will transfer to the student's high school transcript.

Are there prerequisites to take the high school credit Health class?
No, but students are expected to act in a mature manner toward the content and should be responsible enough to take a high school level course.

What skills will my student be learning?

- Functional knowledge
- Decision-making
- Goal-setting
- Analyzing influences
- Healthy communication
- Accessing valid & reliable resources
- Demonstrating practices & behaviors that promote health

What if a student doesn't take health in middle school?
No problem! Students can take Health any year in high school. They can also take it in summer school.



PE FAQs

7th Grade PE
Does everyone take PE? Yes, every student takes PE every other day throughout the year.
Do students have a PE uniform? No, as long as they are able to participate, they can wear their regular school clothes.

8th Grade PE
Do students have to take PE in 8th grade? No. PE is one elective they can choose to take.
Will my student get a high school credit? Yes. The grade and credit will transfer to their transcript.
How much credit toward their high school transcript do they earn? Students get .25 of the required .5 credits they need for graduation.

Sixth Grade Specials

Art: The Universal Language!

- Develop art making skills using an assortment of media and techniques
- Investigate the relationship between art and culture
- Experiment with a variety of ways art can be used to convey personal ideas



Mindful Makers: Build Your Mind, Build Your World

- Cultivate self-awareness, responsible decision-making, and effective communication skills, linking these concepts to personal well-being and collaborative group success
- Discover and develop creative abilities while exploring personal interests and engaging with a wide variety of materials
- Apply critical thinking and curiosity through digital and hands-on projects, utilizing the engineering design process and prototype solutions



Coding and Creating: Turning ideas into reality

- Use iPads to develop the skills to effectively express themselves through digital photography, digital art, digital animation, digital music, and video
- Learn to code with the Swift programming language

Physical Education: Building Healthy Habits for Life!

- Get moving: fitness challenges and games improving strength, endurance, and flexibility
- Work together, play fair, and show leadership through cooperative games
- Improve on movement and sport skills to become a confident mover for life

