

Judson Elective Descriptions 2026-27

Art

This introductory course builds foundational art skills through hands-on exploration of two-dimensional media, including drawing, painting, and printmaking. Students develop visual and design literacy while learning essential techniques in observational drawing, representational and imaginative art, and effective two-dimensional design principles. Projects include life drawing with a focus on human face and hand anatomy, landscape and still-life painting, decorative painting, illustration, and linoleum printmaking. Emphasis is placed on creative problem-solving, craftsmanship, and understanding how artists communicate ideas visually. Art and Advanced Art may be taken in any order.

Advanced Art

Advanced Art expands students' artistic skills through in-depth exploration of three-dimensional media and processes. Students work with ceramics, sculpture, and glass-based arts such as mosaics and glass fusing, learning both technical construction skills and expressive design approaches. This course emphasizes spatial thinking, form, texture, and craftsmanship while encouraging students to develop personal artistic voice and creative independence. Through experimentation and refined projects, students deepen their understanding of materials, tools, and the creative process in three-dimensional art. Art and Advanced Art may be taken in any order.

AVID

AVID stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination. It is a college-prep elective class where students learn critical reading, writing, collaboration, organization, and inquiry skills needed to take high school honors classes and gain entrance to four-year universities. Students participate in tutored study groups called tutorials and go on college field trips. Students develop long-range academic and personal goals, and participate in self-reflective, team building, and community service activities. **Interested students must apply, interview, and be accepted into the AVID program.**

Band

Beginning Band

Open to new band students wishing to learn a wind or percussion instrument. Emphasis is on developing skills at a rapid rate so that students may receive advanced placement at the end of the year. Students will learn the fundamentals of music reading, tone production, rhythm, and proper playing techniques while building strong practice habits and teamwork skills. No prior experience is required. **Evening concert attendance is required.**

Intermediate Band

Open to students with prior band experience who wish to continue developing their skills on a wind or percussion instrument. Emphasis is on advancing tone quality, technical proficiency, music reading, and ensemble performance skills. Students will build on foundational knowledge while learning more challenging music and strengthening independent practice habits. **Evening concert attendance required.**

Advanced Band

Open to students with significant prior band experience and demonstrated proficiency on a wind or percussion instrument. Emphasis is on refining advanced tone quality, technical accuracy, musical expression, sight-reading, and ensemble performance skills. Students will perform challenging literature and are expected to demonstrate strong independent practice habits and musical responsibility. This course prepares students for high-level performance opportunities and continued musical growth. Advanced Band is a year-long commitment for dedicated musicians ready to perform at an elevated level. **Participation in evening concerts and additional performances is required.**

Judson Elective Descriptions 2026-27

Band

Jazz Band - Early Bird

Open to students with prior band experience who wish to study and perform jazz music on a wind, brass, percussion, piano, bass, or guitar instrument. Emphasis is on developing jazz style, articulation, improvisation skills, rhythm section techniques, and ensemble performance. Jazz Band may require concurrent enrollment in a concert band (depending on instrumentation needs). This course is a year-long commitment for students interested in exploring creativity and collaboration through jazz performance. **Participation in evening concerts and festival performances is required.**

Career Exploration

This course has 17 different modules where students learn about various career fields. The careers explored in this class include: Computer Aided Drafting (CAD), Computer Graphics & Animation, Design and Marketing, Digital Manufacturing, Environment & Technology, Flight & Drone Technology, Forensic Science, Home Maintenance Systems, Child Development, Culinary Arts, Nursing, Research & Design, Robotics, Sports Medicine, Structural Engineering, Veterinary Medicine and Virtual Architecture. Through computer-based lessons and hands-on activities, students will experience a small taste of what it would be like to work in that field.

Choir

Soprano/Alto or Tenor/Bass Choir

Like-voice vocal ensembles for 6th, 7th, & 8th graders interested in singing. No audition required. Students develop skills in reading music, vocal technique, choral fundamentals, and 2-3 part choral singing in a variety of languages and styles. **Participation in concerts required.**

Choir

Concert Choir

Advanced mixed-voice ensemble for 7th & 8th graders. Prior choir experience preferred; Audition required. Emphasis on music literacy, choral concepts, vocal technique, and musicianship. Performance repertoire in 3-6 parts and from a variety of languages, styles, and eras. **School concerts, community gigs, and festival performances required.**

Classroom Aide

Classroom aides are recruited by teachers from a master list of those who have requested to help in this capacity. If chosen as a classroom aide, duties vary depending on the classroom/teacher they are assigned to. Some duty examples include labeling, sorting, deliveries to other rooms, etc. Classroom aides must have a consistently positive attitude and willingness to support as needed

Computer App I

In this project-based class, students will learn programming by creating games, art, and other programs using Scratch.

Computer App II

Students will expand upon their skills learned in Computer Applications I by expanding their knowledge of desk top applications, learning basic coding skills, and exploring different careers within the computer technology field. Students will also learn some history about big names within the computer technology field.

Computer Graphics

This course is designed for 7th and 8th grade students who have an interest in graphic design, including digital drawing, photo editing, and animation. Students will complete projects based on real-life graphic design markets, such as advertisements, animations, and multimedia applications. Students will learn project management and professional standards, while developing their own design aesthetic and artistic style in the digital arts.

Judson Elective Descriptions 2026-27

Foods

Foods I

Foods I will be an exploration in baking. We will learn different mixing methods, types of breads, and a variety of other lovely baked goods from around the world.

Foods I and Foods II may be taken in any order.

Foods II

Foods II will have a cooking focus and center around making meals and savory dishes. We will learn knife skills, herbs and spices, regional cooking, and a variety of other kitchen skills. Foods I and Foods II may be taken in any order.

Guidance Aide

Guidance aides are approved positions by school counselors, to work in the counseling office delivering slips to students, organizing, and assisting the guidance team with special projects.

Leadership

This course is designed for students who have an interest in being a leader within the school. Students plan and lead school assemblies, spirit days, No Tardy Parties, and after-school activities. In addition, this group works on projects that benefit the community such as the Food and Coat Drive, Family Building Blocks Season of Giving, and the Judson Recycling Program. In class, students will be introduced to the characteristics, attributes and skills that encompass effective leadership. Students who want to participate in Leadership class must meet the following requirements: Excellent daily attendance (90% or higher), no D's or F's, a consistent positive attitude, and no 1's or 2's in Conduct and Work Habits.

Library Aide

Library aides are approved by the Library Media Specialist. They perform basic clerical duties such as shelving, assisting in the check in/out of books, running slips to classes for book holds and other projects as needed. When aides are not busy, they are welcome to work on assignments from other classes (if any).

Office Aide

Open to 8th graders who have maintained good attendance, behavior and grades. Students will assist office staff by delivering slips to students and teachers in classrooms. Their support will be expected for a variety of other special jobs and projects as the needs arise.

Orchestra

Beginning Orchestra

Open to new orchestra students interested in learning violin, viola, cello, or bass at an accelerated pace.

Participation in evening performances is required.

Intermediate Orchestra

Designed for returning orchestra students to further develop playing technique. Students will learn to rehearse and perform in an ensemble setting.

Membership by audition. **Participation in evening performances is required.**

Advanced Band

Students build on the ability to play two octave scales, major and minor keys, vibrato, third position, and develop tone, intonation, and position. Membership by audition only. **Participation in evening performances is required.**

Judson Elective Descriptions 2026-27

Spanish I

An introductory course where students develop basic communication skills in Spanish through listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Using the Entreculturas 1 curriculum, students learn foundational vocabulary, grammar, and sentence structures while exploring Spanish-speaking cultures. The course emphasizes real-world communication, cultural awareness, and confidence in using Spanish in everyday situations. No prior Spanish experience is required.

Spanish II

Builds on the skills developed in Spanish 1, strengthening students' ability to communicate in Spanish through more complex listening, speaking, reading, and writing activities. Using the Entreculturas curriculum, students expand their vocabulary, deepen their understanding of grammar, and practice using Spanish in real-world contexts. The course continues to emphasize cultural awareness and authentic communication across Spanish-speaking countries. Successful completion of Spanish 1 is required.

Unified PE

Dedicated to promoting inclusion through shared sports training and competition experiences, Unified PE joins students with and without intellectual disabilities, competing together in a variety of team sports. Modeled after Special Olympics Unified Sports, this class was inspired by a simple principle: Training together and playing together is a quick path to friendship and understanding.

Wood I

Students will learn how to safely use tools as they cut and build projects from many different patterns in the wood shop. Each one will learn the basic principles of wood working, develop skills and precision while exercising more and more creativity as they progress.

World Drumming

For 7th & 8th graders. This course explores drumming and rhythm ensemble forms, styles, and techniques from African and Caribbean musical traditions. Emphasis is on communication, cooperation, teamwork, and cultural understanding skills through the experience of a drumming circle. Students will engage in group improvisation, and explore how rhythm fosters connection and respect in a collaborative environment.