

Elective Course Descriptions for 2018-19

SIXTH GRADE WHEEL ELECTIVES

The sixth grade wheel elective is designed to offer the student exposure to a variety of subjects. If the wheel elective is chosen, the student's elective class will change every ten weeks. The student does not choose the four elective classes he/she will take for the year; rather, the classes will be chosen by the school among the choices listed below. Other courses may be added or switched out depending on staffing.

INTRODUCTION TO ART

In this beginning art class, you will learn how to draw, create two-dimensional charcoal-shaded drawings, and mix colors with paint. You will make a project combining the above techniques.

INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTERS

In this course, students will take a hands-on approach to learning how to use a computer and utilize web-based tools. This includes exploring how the computer functions, creating and collaborating with Google Drive, downloading and sharing files, understanding how to protect yourself from the dangers of the internet, digital citizenship, website creation and keyboarding skills.

INTRODUCTION TO S.T.E.M

This class stands for **S**cience **T**echnology **E**ngineering and **M**athematics previously known as engineering. These different fields are intertwined in class to display they work together in a real world scenario. Students will learn through student-centered, hands-on projects, and will be introduced to various concepts in engineering even Ozobots (robots). Students apply the engineering design process to solve problems and understand the influence of creativity, critical thinking, innovation and testing of their designs.

INTRODUCTION TO AVID

Introductory course that exposes students to binder organizing, note taking, annotations, time management skills, writing resource skills while being exposed to the college going culture.

INTRODUCTION TO HEALTHY LIVING

Introduction to Healthy Teen Living is an exciting course geared specifically to meet the needs of the adolescent learner. Students will be introduced to a wide variety of skills to make them more responsible and independent individuals. In addition, students will learn to understand and cope with personal, family and social challenges common during transitional teenage years. We will focus on communication skills, decision-making skills, emotion management and building positive relationships.

SEMESTER LONG ELECTIVE CLASSES

GRADE LEVEL: 7 & 8

The following electives are paired as year long courses (one course per semester). The student will have one elective of the pair for the first semester and the second elective of the pair for the second semester.

ART 1 & 2

Prerequisite: Art 1 is the prerequisite for Art 2

This course is comprised of two ten week sessions. The first session will explore the wide body of contemporary art available for view in the Los Angeles area given the expansion of MOCA and the Broad art museums. The Art History session will trace the chronological development of artistic traditions beginning with the Ancient Egyptian civilization all the way to present contemporary art. In conjunction with the written text, videos and lectures, students will create period inspired artwork to reflect the artistic traditions-- as mirrors of the given culture.

FOOD & NUTRITION

This class will help with weight control knowledge and exercise. Activities include cooking, creating posters on health awareness, learning about food-borne illnesses and discovering different foods from around the world.

EXPLORATION OF STEM

This class stands for **Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics**, previously known as engineering. These different fields are intertwined in class to display they work together in a real world scenario. Students will learn through student-centered, hands-on projects, and will be introduced to various concepts in engineering even LEGO Mindstorms. Students apply the engineering design process to solve problems and understand the influence of creativity, critical thinking, innovation and testing of their designs.

ADVANCED STEM (8th grade only)

Prerequisite: C or better in Exploration of STEM

This class stands for **Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics**. This is a new class for 8th GRADE ONLY to have the opportunity to develop their design skills, be introduced to new topics such as circuitry, robotics (VEX), 3D printing as well as other topics not involving electronics. With this class, we will be preparing you for high school engineering. The requirement for this class is to have passed Exploration of S.T.E.M. with a B or better; or, if you did not take this course, have passed 7th grade science with a B or better. You can not have any U's in citizenship or work habits to take this course.

EXPLORATION OF SPANISH

This semester long course is **only recommended if you are interested in taking Spanish 1** (a high school level course) as an 8th or 9th grader. This course will cover the essentials of speaking, listening, reading, and writing.

EXPLORATION OF JAPANESE

This semester long course is **only recommended if you are interested in taking Japanese 1** (a high school level course) as an 8th or 9th grader. This course will introduce students to the basic writing (hiragana and katakana), reading, speaking, and listening standards of Japanese, as well as the cultural and historical aspects of Japan.

INTRODUCTION TO THEATER ARTS

Students in Theater Arts will explore the history and culture of theater and the performing arts.. Students can expect to perform monologues and short scenes or skits, practice improvisational skills, and write

short theatrical reviews. Additionally, students will read, analyze, and stage scenes from a variety of plays. **This class requires a high level of participation and enthusiasm!**

2D COMPUTER ANIMATION

In 2D Animation students will learn how to develop an animated cartoon from storyboarding to publishing. Students will learn the basics of drawing, principles of animation, how to create appealing characters, character rigging, using audio and more!

3D COMPUTER ANIMATION

3D Animation covers all the basics of creating 3D graphics for Pixar style videos or video games. Students will learn how to model objects, create materials, light and render environments and animate objects and characters.

PERFORMANCES PRODUCTION

Prerequisite: Application and Audition

Students in the Performances Production class will be introduced to live performances by way of plays and musicals. In this class they will learn skills required to put on a production, including acting, singing, dancing, set design, prop design, etc. Fall semester will culminate in a play and Spring semester will culminate in a musical. This class is designed for students actively committed to participating in school productions as actors, student directors, and/or stage managers. This class requires dedication and high participation, as well as some time commitments outside of class, including a once a week rehearsal after school. Students must apply and audition to get into this course.

TEEN LIVING

Introduction to Healthy Teen Living is an exciting course geared specifically to meet the needs of the adolescent learner. Students will learn and practice skills associated with empathy and communication, bullying prevention, emotion management, goal setting, substance abuse prevention, healthy habits and social awareness.

YEAR LONG ELECTIVES

ASB (Associated Student Body)

GRADE LEVEL: 6-8

Prerequisite: BY APPLICATION ONLY

Must submit an application form to Mrs. Vielman with 2 recommendation forms. Must maintain a 2.75 GPA with no **N** or **U**, throughout the year. ***Applications due MARCH 2ND. Interviews to follow.***

ASB provides school leadership opportunities for students in good academic standing to participate in activities such as: plan, organize, and participate in formal and informal dances, Spirit Week, grade-level competitions, community and charity awareness projects, cultural events, and other student and school events throughout the year. 6th grade students must apply and interview at the start of 6th grade and five (5) 6th grade students will become 6th grade ambassadors.

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination)

GRADE LEVEL: 7 AND 8

Prerequisite: BY APPLICATION ONLY

Must submit a complete application, one teacher recommendation and an interview to apply for the AVID elective. Must maintain a 2.00 GPA with no N or U, throughout the year. GPA's will be verified, parents contacted, and teacher recommendations obtained to determine eligibility. ***Applications due MARCH 2ND. Interviews to follow.***

AVID is an elective class offered to students who would like to prepare for four-year colleges and

universities. Students must have satisfactory citizenship, good attendance, and a GPA between 2.00 and 3.50. Applicants must be motivated to work toward college eligibility. Ninety-two percent of high school AVID students go to college. In middle school, our task is to prepare our students to succeed in college-preparatory high school classes. In AVID, students are given the support and instruction they need to succeed. The AVID curriculum includes: note taking and study skills, essay writing, college/career activities, twice weekly tutorials with college students, motivational activities, time-management/goal setting skills, guest speakers, and field trips to area colleges / universities and cultural locales.

YEARBOOK

GRADE LEVEL: 7 AND 8

Prerequisite: **BY APPLICATION ONLY** 1.) Good academic standing 2.) Must maintain a 2.75 GPA 3.) Must fill out an application with Mrs. Vielman and 2 letters of recommendation. **Applications due MARCH 2nd. Interviews to follow.**

In Yearbook you will create the book that will be viewed and purchased by most of your peers. You are expected to be responsible with your deadlines and be creative. Students will take on the task and challenge of creating the spreads for sports teams, school clubs and academics.

OFFICE PRACTICE/ TEACHER AIDE/ LIBRARY AIDE/ NURSE'S AIDE

GRADE LEVEL: 8

Prerequisite: 1) A "B" (3.0) or better cumulative GPA and no U or N in Citizenship and Work Habits and 2) Counselor or Administrator signature on required on elective sheet.

Students will help office staff in the Middle School office with a variety of duties including taking passes, filing, and other office duties.

YEAR LONG LANGUAGE ELECTIVES

JAPANESE 1

GRADE LEVEL: 8

Prerequisite: A or B in English Language Arts Class

Provides practice in listening and speaking through imitation and repetition exercises and by reciting brief dialogues related to activities in school, home and community. Provides practice in variation and application of learned materials; stresses correct intonation and pronunciation of all phonemes of Japanese and practice in the correct use of elementary basic language structures and in reading and writing of familiar material, using the native syllabifies hiragana, katakana, and simple kanji. Provides opportunities to appreciate traditions and customs of Japan through videos, crafts and arts as related to family life, festivals, and school.

SPANISH 1

GRADE LEVEL: 7 & 8

Prerequisite: A or B in English Language Arts Class

This course is an introduction to the Spanish language and culture. Communicative proficiency is developed in real-life situations through the practical use of the language. The essentials of grammar will be taught to reinforce the inter-related skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing.

SPANISH & JAPANESE LANGUAGE ARTS ELECTIVES

JAPANESE LANGUAGE ARTS COURSE A: Japanese History Ancient to Warring Periods

GRADE LEVEL: 6, 7, 8

Prerequisite: Continuation of a language immersion program or native-like proficiency in Japanese (test to determine proficiency).

This academic elective course engages students in project-based approach to improve their language proficiency. We will take a broad look at Japanese history ranging from the ancient to the warring periods by using Socratic seminars, debate, presentations, and essays per unit. This class will examine how different leaders impacted Japan's existing system.

JAPANESE LANGUAGE ARTS COURSE B: Japanese History - Warring to Pre-modern times

GRADE LEVEL: 6, 7, 8

Prerequisite: Continuation of a language immersion program or native-like proficiency in Japanese (test to determine proficiency).

This academic elective course engages students in project-based approach to improve their language proficiency. We will take a broad look at Japanese history ranging from the warring periods to the pre-modern periods by using Socratic seminars, debate, presentations, and essays per unit. This class will examine how different leaders and events impacted Japan's existing system.

JAPANESE LANGUAGE ARTS COURSE C: Japanese Current Events and Culture

GRADE LEVEL: 6, 7, 8

Prerequisite: Continuation of a language immersion program or native-like proficiency in Japanese (test to determine proficiency).

This academic elective course engages students in project-based approach to improve their language proficiency. We will take a broad look at Japan's pre-modern history to current events and culture by using Socratic seminars, debate, presentations, and essays per unit. This class will examine how different leaders and events impacted Japan's existing system.

SPANISH LANGUAGE ARTS 6

GRADE LEVEL: 6

Prerequisite: Continuation of a language immersion program or native-like proficiency in Spanish as evaluated by a teacher.

In this academic elective course you will read poetry, short stories and one or more novels in Spanish. You will learn grammatical patterns and vocabulary. You will continue learning about Latin American and Spanish culture through their holiday traditions, as well as through music, art, videos, food, discussion, and writing.

SPANISH LANGUAGE ARTS 7

GRADE LEVEL: 7

Prerequisite: Grade of "C" or better in Language Arts / previous Spanish Language Arts class.

In this academic elective course you will read poetry, short stories and one or more novels in Spanish. You will learn grammatical patterns and vocabulary. You will identify key components of cultures. You will continue learning about Latin American and Spanish culture through music, art, videos, food, discussion, and writing.

SPANISH LANGUAGE ARTS 8

GRADE LEVEL: 8

Prerequisite: Grade of "C" or better in Language Arts / previous Spanish Language Arts class.

In this academic elective course you will read poetry, short stories and one or more novels in Spanish. You will learn grammatical patterns and vocabulary. You will explore the meaning of culture by inventing one. You will continue learning about Latin American and Spanish culture through music, art, videos, food, discussion, writing, and research.

MUSIC ELECTIVES

PANTHER BAND

Grade Level 6, 7, and 8

Learn to play an instrument and participate in concerts in December and May. The students begin with one of the following instruments but may advance to more challenging instruments in the second semester. (Flute, Bb Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Bb Trumpet or Cornet, Trombone, or Baritone). Students may try all of the above listed instruments so they can make an informed decision.

CONCERT BAND

GRADE LEVEL: 6, 7, AND 8

This is a more challenging class for students who play (Flute, Bb Clarinet, Oboe, Bassoon, Bb Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, Bb Trumpet or Cornet, French Horn, Trombone, Baritone, Tuba, or Percussion) Students must have successfully completed the material in Essential Elements 2000 Book 1.

CCMS SYMPHONIC WINDS

GRADE LEVEL: 7 AND 8

Prerequisite: Band Director Approval. *Applications due MARCH 2ND. Students must play sample for Band Director.*

This is our most challenging class for students who play (Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, Bb Clarinet, Bb Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, Bb Trumpet or Cornet, French Horn, Trombone, Baritone, Tuba, or Percussion). We perform three main concerts each year and will be performing at a music festival and other possible venues. Students must have successfully completed the material in Essential Elements 2000 Book 2 and must get the approval of the instructor (Mr. Witt).

PANTHER STRINGS

GRADE LEVEL: 6, 7, AND 8

Learn to play a stringed instrument and participate in concerts in December and May. The students begin with one of the following instruments. (Violin, Viola, Cello, or Bass). Students to try all of the stringed instruments so they can make an informed decision.

CCMS SYMPHONIC STRINGS

GRADE LEVEL: 7 AND 8

Prerequisite: Band Director Approval. *Applications due MARCH 2ND. Students must play sample for Band Director.*

This is our most challenging class for students who play (Violin, Viola, Cello, or Bass). We perform two or three main concerts each year and will be performing at a music festival and other possible venues. Students must have successfully completed the material in Essential Elements 2000 Book 2 and must get the approval of the instructor (Mr. Witt).

SINGING PANTHERS CHOIR
GRADE LEVEL: 6 AND 7

In choir, we learn proper vocal technique, sing two and three-part pieces, and learn to read music and notation. We sing a varied repertoire of music in different languages, cultures, and stylistic periods. In addition to all of the elements of musical literacy, we focus on skills of cooperative learning and self-discipline. Students participate in three main evening concerts throughout the year. A positive attitude toward music and openness to trying new things is key to success in choir! □

VOICESTRA CHOIR
GRADE LEVEL: 7 AND 8

Prerequisite: *One year in CCMS choir and/or the ability to pass a music sight-reading test.*

The 7th and 8th-grade choir sings music from all over the world, in a variety of languages, cultures, and stylistic periods. We continue to practice proper vocal technique, read music and notation, sing in solfege, and sing two, three, and four-part pieces. Students continue to work on the skills of cooperation, dedication and self-discipline necessary for a performing group. We perform three or more times a year, including a performance at a music festival in the spring.