

2023-24 Middle School

Trimester 3 Elective Classes Descriptions

Elective Choices

Art Lab taught by Holly Walker. This course is designed for students to have creative freedom in a studio art environment. The class is structured around a focal point each week that explores the mediums of graphite, ink, watercolor paint, acrylic paint, fibers, photography and mixed-media collage. After students complete and pass a practice exercise using the given medium, they then get to create a free-choice piece of art using that medium. Advanced students have the freedom to create projects for themselves as they go. This gives students of all abilities the opportunity to work alongside one another in a cooperative atmosphere.

Birds of a Feather taught by Gary Perless. If you are fascinated by birds, join us as we take walks in the local area and learn how to identify and appreciate the birds we see and hear. We'll also learn about birds around the world, in history, art, culture, and how their songs have inspired music and languages.

Cold War Movie History taught by Todd Claunch. Students in this class will learn about the Cold War through movies, lectures, and discussions.

Exploring Folk Music taught by Gary Perless. Every culture around the world has its own unique folk music traditions. American folk music has roots in English ballads Scots Irish dance tunes, African rhythms, and many other cultures. We'll explore some of these, learning more about the cultures, instruments, and songs. No prior musical knowledge required, but if you already play an instrument or like to sing, we'll use your skills to learn to play and sing folk music.

Exploring the Far East: A Journey through the History of China, Japan, and Mongolia taught by Jake Eveland. This elective course is designed to introduce students to the rich history and diverse cultures of China, Japan, and Mongolia. Through a captivating blend of interactive lessons, engaging activities, and multimedia resources, students will delve into the ancient civilizations, traditions, and contributions of these influential regions.

Hobbies collective (Student driven class) taught by Todd Claunch. Students will be able to work on hobby projects of their choosing or one that will go along with the class. Students that have a particular hobby can bring it in, work on it and teach others about it, giving everyone a chance to explore a passion. Some examples may be fly-tying, knitting, model building, miniatures, kite making etc.

Robotics taught by Laura Maas. Students will complete challenges using a humanoid robot. Robots will be programmed to walk, talk, dance, tumble, sit/stand, etc. The course will conclude with students programming robots for a dance-off.

Science Challenge taught by Derek May. Students in this elective will work individually, as well as in groups, competing in timed "challenge" events. Some events will be modified from science Olympiad challenges such as egg drop and towers. We will also brainstorm together to come up with new ones. It will be something different every day!

Songwriting for beginners taught by Gary Perless. Learn the fundamentals of songwriting, including melody, harmony, song structure and arrangement. Work with classmates to put your thoughts or poems to music or compose an instrumental piece. No previous experience or musical knowledge necessary, just a willingness to work on your songs.

Ukelele for Beginners taught by Gary Perless. If you've wanted or tried to learn the guitar, but have struggled holding chords on 6 strings, you'll find the ukelele much easier. The ukulele has only 4 strings, a small neck and small body making this an easy entry point into playing an instrument. No prior experience necessary. In a supportive environment, we'll learn basic strums, chord patterns, and even singalongs. You'll quickly start having fun as we learn to play basic songs.

Wilderness Survival taught by Derek May. In recent years, greater numbers of people have focused their leisure time on being outdoors. People are seeking solitude and recreation in the deeply wooded and uninhabited areas of our country. Newer and better outdoor equipment and clothing enable hikers to travel much farther into the woods than before. The inevitability of emergencies occurring in the wilderness to a greater number of people makes it necessary to obtain knowledge in survival techniques. Getting lost, even on a one-day fishing or camping trip, is possible. The basic skills taught within this unit are quick and easy to recall in case of a wilderness emergency. These skills are useful during any season and in any location to help you stay alive in a survival situation.

Word Play taught by Morgan Allen. In this class, we will be exploring new words and phrases through games. We will be playing a variety of different word games and will eventually be making our own and playing them!

English Choices 7th & 8th only (must take 1)

Creative Language Arts taught by Morgan Allen. In this class, we will be reading and analyzing stories, as well as writing them. We will be exploring new worlds, characters, themes, etc. This class is structured, but it also gives you the freedom to write and share your dreams and thoughts too!

Literature Critics taught by Morgan Allen. If you like to share your opinions and argue, then this class is for you! In this class, we'll dig into some fun stories from a variety of genres including horror, fairytales, and much much more! Join in on the fun and share your critiques!