



2021-2022 VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS (VAPA) AND WORLD LANGUAGE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

****All courses are subject to change based on student enrollment and interest****

YEARLONG COURSES

BALLROOM DANCE (Advanced) – Grade 7 and 8: This course is for students who have previous experience with Ballroom Dance. The course will continue instruction in East Coast Swing, Foxtrot, Two Step, Cha Cha, Latin Hustle, Waltz, as well as introduce other dances, including Calypso, West Coast Swing, and/or Tango. The emphasis of this course is on creativity, precision of movement, posture and rhythm. Along with the movement component, this course contains an academic element that focuses on keeping a journal to document ideas, analyze personal experiences, critique dance performances, and help develop writing skills. Students may be expected to teach and perform for community and school organizations, both during school hours as well as outside of school hours.

BALLROOM DANCE (Intermediate) – Grade 7 and 8 (Students can petition instructor to be in class if not taken during 6th grade.): This course is for students who have previous experience with Ballroom Dance. The course will continue instruction in East Coast Swing, Foxtrot, Two Step, as well as introduce other dances, including Calypso, Cha Cha, Latin Hustle, Waltz, West Coast Swing, and/or Tango. The emphasis of this course is on creativity, precision of movement, posture and rhythm. Along with the movement component, this course contains an academic element that focuses on keeping a journal to document ideas, analyze personal experiences, critique dance performances, and help develop writing skills. Students may be expected to teach and perform for community and school organizations, both during school hours as well as outside of school hours.

BAND 1 (Beginning) – Grade 7 and 8: This is a yearlong course that provides students with learning and performance opportunities on wind, brass, and percussion instruments. This level of Band is for students with no experience, or less than one full year experience, on a band instrument. The primary focus is on the development of individual technique and ensemble skills. Students in Band 1 (Beginning) will perform at two evening concerts during the school year. Instrument options include flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone, tuba, and percussion (drums).

BAND 2 (Advanced) – Grade 7 and 8: This is a continuation of Band 1. Students who have not completed Band 1 may audition for placement in Band 2. The primary focus is on the continued development of ensemble skills necessary for effective instrumental music performance. Students in Band 2 (Advanced) will perform in at least two (2) concerts a year, compete in a music festival, and participate in school and community events. Students are expected to play the same instrument as in previous years with opportunities to switch on an "as needed" basis.

CHOIR – Grade 7 and 8: Choir is a yearlong course that provides students with learning and performance opportunities for voice. The primary focus is on the development and expansion of basic skills that are necessary for proper vocal music performance. Students will present several performances throughout the year including two evening concerts and a competitive music festival. The curriculum is designed for students with or without prior vocal experience. Students will sing a variety of styles of songs including pop, Broadway musical, and traditional art songs

COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (Intermediate/Advanced) -- Grade 7 and 8: This is a yearlong course for students who have already taken the computer literacy trimester wheel class, Communication Technology (Intermediate) class, or who have a strong desire to learn more about technology and can produce samples of work they've created using iMovie or similar video editing software. The focus of this course will be to produce monthly school broadcasts and maintain a student-run website highlighting school events from a student's perspective. We will also do photo editing, web design, and other video production projects. This is an advanced course in which students will be expected to work independently and in groups successfully.

DRAMA (Advanced) – Grade 7 and 8: Drama Advanced is a yearlong class designed to introduce students to various aspects of theatre arts, and will include both class work and hands-on activities. Topics include beginning theatre techniques and building confidence in body movement and projection. Students in the class will stage performances of various types, including monologues, reader's theatre, and a Spring production which will entail some afternoon, evening, and weekend commitment.

EXPLORING TECHNOLOGY/WOODSHOP (Advanced) -- Grade 7 and 8: (Students can petition instructor to be in class if not taken during 6th grade.): Fine woodworking with attention to detail is taught and stressed. Artistic expression is encouraged. New tools and machines will be introduced. Students will learn basic construction principles and will explore related fields such as concrete and tile. Safety and time management are stressed.

ELECTRICITY, ELECTRONICS, AND ROBOTICS – Grade 7 and 8: This is a technical-skills based class that delves into the world of electricity. Students will study the basic concepts of electricity. Circuit theory, circuit design, and troubleshooting will be covered. Students will then move into basic electronic components, and theory. Students will build their own circuits and practice soldering. Robotics will be the last part of the class and will include basic programming theory and application. Students will utilize their programming and circuit knowledge to operate robots autonomously, navigating them through several obstacle courses. Students will work with the community on multiple occasions, leveraging their technical skills to solve problems.

ENGINEERING AND FABRICATION – Grade 7 and 8: Engineering and Fabrication is a technical-skills based class that delves into the world of manufacturing. Students will work through the fabrication continuum: from the design process, to product engineering, and finally to the manufacturing of the products. We work on a broad range of projects incorporating a diverse list of materials. We will rely heavily on power tools and equipment for our work, including CNC machines.

FUNDAMENTALS OF ART (Advanced) – Grade 7 and 8: Art (Advanced) is for students who want an opportunity to advance to a higher level of understanding and skill development in the two-dimensional and three-dimensional areas of art through studying the elements of art, and how history, religion, and world cultures have influenced the art we know today. Students are encouraged to express themselves through a wide variety of mediums including sketching, painting, set design and ceramics.

GUITAR – Grade 7 and 8: Guitar is a yearlong course for students with little or no prior experience, interested in learning how to play guitar. The primary focus is on the development of skills that are necessary for effective instrumental music performance. Students in guitar can bring their own acoustic guitar, or use a school owned instrument. There are two levels of curriculum with an advanced course for those students who wish to repeat the class. Students will perform in two concerts each year.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT – Grade 7 and 8: Student Government is a yearlong course where students will plan activities and be expected to attend events such as dances, spirit contests, rallies, student and staff recognition programs, and community service events. Students must meet the academic and behavioral standards required of all extra-curricular programs. This is a teacher selected course that students are required to apply for.

YEARBOOK – Grade 7 and 8: Yearbook is a rigorous course designed to expose the student to the skills of photography, journalism and page production, and to assist in acquiring the responsible attitude necessary to meet the demands of a production schedule and publication deadline. Students are involved in all stages of producing a 90+ page full-color yearbook.

TRIMESTER COURSES – VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS WHEELS

BALLROOM DANCE (Beginning) – Grade 6, 7 and 8: This dance course introduces students to rules, procedures, etiquette, and vocabulary required in dance. The course provides an introduction to dance techniques such as warm up, cool down, conditioning, stretching, and injury prevention. Emphasis is on the development of muscular strength, aerobic conditioning, coordination, alignment, balance, dexterity, and movement. Students are introduced to a variety of ballroom dance styles including East Coast Swing, West Coast Swing, Foxtrot, Waltz, Cha Cha, Tango, Two Step, and/or Latin Hustle. There are opportunities for students to create their own choreography, perform, and collaborate on a dance. No previous dance experience is required.

COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (Beginning) – Grade 6, 7 and 8: Students will further enhance their basic computer terminology, navigation, and word processing skills. They will manipulate and develop their own spreadsheets, databases, and graphic layouts using the computer. Assignments and projects will vary based on grade level. Students will learn about the internet, discuss computer ethics, and review navigating the internet using a browser. Students will practice internet-searching skills using various search engines. Internet safety, intellectual property and copyright topics will be discussed.

DRAMA (Beginning) – Grade 6, 7 and 8: This class is designed to engage students with the various aspects of theater arts, such as staging, property production, costuming, and vocalization. This will be done through the use of puppetry, clay figures, and textile fabrication. Students will practice and perform, improve, write and record audio dramas, and build the skills involved in delivering presentations in front of groups.

EXPLORING TECHNOLOGY/WOODSHOP (Beginning) – Grade 6, 7 and 8: This is an introduction course covering power tools and the fabrication process. It will give a brief introduction to various pathways in heavy industry including: engineering, construction, and advanced manufacturing. This 12-week experience allows students to see the broad range of skills that go into engineered spaces.

FUNDAMENTALS OF ART (Beginning) – Grade 6: This is an interdisciplinary class that bridges visual arts, art history, and language arts. Students are introduced to the elements of art and principles of design.

INTRO to BAND- Grade 6 This course introduces students to the instruments played in band. Students will explore the instrument options then choose one instrument to focus on for the trimester. The curriculum will focus on developing instrument playing techniques and basic ensemble skills. There will be one evening concert at the end of the trimester. Instruments available: Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Tuba, Drum Kit (snare and bells). No previous instrument experience is required and school instruments are available to borrow.

INTRO to CHOIR - Grade 6: This course introduces students to singing in a large group. We will explore proper singing/vocal technique and learn how to sing in multiple parts. Students will sing a variety of styles of songs including pop, Broadway musical, and traditional art songs. No previous singing experience is required. There will be one evening concert at the end of the trimester.

WORLD LANGUAGE YEARLONG COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

WORLD LANGUAGE: FRENCH LEVEL 1 (6 GRADE ONLY): This course is designed to teach students about the language and culture of French-speaking people. The first-year course emphasizes communication, basic grammar and syntax, and simple vocabulary so students can read, write, speak, and comprehend on a basic level.

WORLD LANGUAGE: French LEVEL 2: This course is designed to teach students the language and culture of French-speaking people. The second year course emphasizes communication, grammar and syntax, and vocabulary so students can read, write, speak, and comprehend on a deeper level.

WORLD LANGUAGE: French LEVEL 3: This course is designed to teach students about the language and culture of French-speaking people. The third-year course emphasizes communication, grammar and syntax, and vocabulary so that students can read, write, speak, and comprehend at a more advanced level.

WORLD LANGUAGE: SPANISH LEVEL 1: This course is designed to teach students about the language and culture of the Spanish and Latin American people. The first-year course emphasizes communication, basic grammar and syntax, and simple vocabulary so that students can read, write, speak, and comprehend on a basic level.

WORLD LANGUAGE: SPANISH LEVEL 2: This course is designed to teach students about the language and culture of the Spanish and Latin American people. The second-year course emphasizes communication, grammar and syntax, and vocabulary so that students can read, write, speak, and comprehend on a deeper level.

WORLD LANGUAGE: SPANISH LEVEL 3: This course is designed to teach students about the language and culture of the Spanish and Latin American people. The third-year course emphasizes communication, grammar and syntax, and vocabulary so that students can read, write, speak, and comprehend at a more advanced level.

SPANISH FOR HERITAGE SPEAKERS: This course is conducted entirely in Spanish for fluent speakers of Spanish who are orally proficient in the language, but have had little or no formal language training in a classroom setting. It is meant to provide Spanish language, awareness of current issues in the Spanish Speaking world, and culture experiences in oral and written language. Cultural projects and readings of Spanish, Latin American will guide the classroom activities.