



2023-2024 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 (Intermediate/Advanced) – Grade 7 and 8: Students can petition the instructor if not taken during 6th grade. The course will continue and/or introduce instruction in East Coast Swing, Foxtrot, Nightclub Two Step, Cha Cha, Latin Hustle, Waltz, West Coast Swing, Salsa, and Tango. The emphasis of this course is on working as a team, creativity, precision of movement, posture, and rhythm. Along with the movement component, this course contains an academic element that focuses on keeping a digital journal to document ideas, analyze personal experiences, learning, growth, critique dance performances, and help develop writing skills. The goal of journal writing is to help students become critical thinkers and to become more articulate when discussing dance. Students will be expected to teach and perform for community and school organizations, both during school hours as well as outside of school hours.

BAND 1 – 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.

BAND (Modern) Grade 7 and 8: Modern Band will focus on the performance and writing skills relevant to current popular music. Students will learn to play and perform on modern band instruments (guitar, bass, drums, keyboard, vocals), explore the history of modern popular music, and learn songwriting techniques. Students will present at least one public performance.

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 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: This is for students who have successfully completed Intermediate Drama with a 7 or higher and/or who earn a spot based on their completed application, prior theater experience, and teacher recommendation. Students will experience theater from the standpoint of the actor, director, and/or technician. In addition, students will write scenes and monologues for performance. Participation in school events such as the Fall Play and Spring Musical are required. Rehearsals outside of class time will be required.

DRAMA (Intermediate) – Grade 7 and 8: This is for students who have successfully completed 6th grade Beginning Drama and/or who earn a spot based on their completed application and teacher recommendation. This course practices the in-depth creation of characters, projection of ideas, and expression of emotions through the preparation of scenes and monologues. The class will also study styles of acting and the history of the theater. In addition, students will participate in group and individual activities in body control, voice, diction, and pantomime. Students will read, interpret, and analyze dramatic works. Additionally, students will be tasked with writing both critiques and scenes. Note: This class produces the Eich Talent Show and performs a children's theater show for invited elementary schools. Rehearsals outside of class time will be required.

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.

EXPLORING TECHNOLOGY/WOODSHOP (Intermediate/Advanced) -- Grade 7 and 8: Students can petition the instructor 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 while exploring related fields such as concrete and tile. Safety and time management are stressed.

FUNDAMENTALS OF ART (I, II, Advanced) – Grade 7 and 8: This course 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, mixed media and ceramics. Students will be placed in the course according to current art proficiency level so lessons and projects can be tailored to build and supplement the skills to progress as an artist.

GUITAR ENSEMBLE - Grade 7 and 8: Guitar Ensemble is designed to teach students how to play the acoustic guitar. The emphasis of this course is to teach classical strumming and picking techniques as well as performance skills necessary to play in a large group. There are two levels of curriculum available for students wishing to repeat the course. Students will perform in two concerts, a music festival, and several school and community events throughout the school year.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT/LEADERSHIP – 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.

TECHNICAL THEATER – Grade 7 and 8: This is the perfect opportunity to learn what goes on behind the scenes of a performance. Students will do hands-on work to help with the design and technical aspects of Eich's theater productions. Students will learn the basic skills and safety measures required to plan and produce scenery, lighting, and sound for the theater. Additionally, the students will discuss and practice set building, scenic painting, costuming, makeup, and stage management. The students are strongly encouraged to participate in production crews for Eich shows. Some after school time may be involved.

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 6th Grade

BALLROOM DANCE (Beginning) – Grade 6: This 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, Foxtrot, Waltz, Cha Cha, Tango, Nightclub 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: 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: This class is for students who want to improve their public speaking skills or wish to explore the theater arts. Students are introduced to the production aspects of a theater performance, and practice the creation of characters. Students develop language skills through reading and interpreting dramatic works, writing critiques and analyzing characters. Students will participate in group and individual activities in body control, voice, diction, and pantomime. Students at this level do not perform for the public. There are no rehearsals or performances outside of class. No prior theater experience is necessary.

EXPLORING TECHNOLOGY/WOODSHOP (Beginning) – Grade 6: 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 and 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 GUITAR - Grade 6: This course introduces students to playing and performing on the guitar. Students will learn basic chords, strum and picking patterns, and music reading skills while performing modern and classical music.

WORLD LANGUAGE YEARLONG COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

WORLD LANGUAGE: FRENCH LEVEL 1: 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.