



ELECTIVES 2025-2026 - 7th and 8th Grade

ART ELECTIVES

ART + BIOLOGY: Self-Portraits

Teacher: Miss Eliza Leffler

Trimester 1

Students will learn how to draw their self-portraits over the course of the trimester. By studying facial features, the skull, and the bones of the face, students will practice rendering the facial structure and placement of highlight and shadow. Each component of the face will be studied separately by exploring the anatomy of each and ultimately drawing them.

Forensic facial reconstruction will also be studied to allow for deeper understanding of bone, soft tissue, and how the planes of the face are formed. In addition, students will learn how to create form and depth in a 2D drawing by practicing pencil techniques that will be used in their final self-portrait.

For the grand finale, the final self-portrait will be compared to the initial one!

ART + DESIGN: Fashion Illustration

Trimester 2

Fashion Illustration will begin with drawing the elongated and exaggerated fashion figure commonly seen in fashion magazines. Students will learn the nine-head rule for rendering stylized figures, as opposed to realistic representations. Time will be spent on drawing facial features, hands and feet, and stances based on bone structure and musculature. In addition, lessons on layering color to create textures (fur, sequins, satin, etc.) and folds in fabric will be shared with the class.

Students will design their own collections and mood boards to end the trimester!

ART + HISTORY: Modern Art (1860's - 1970's)

Trimester 3

In this class, we'll explore how artists from the late 1800s to the 1970s changed the way we think about art. We'll learn about famous artists like Frida Kahlo, Pablo Picasso, and Wassily Kandinsky—and discover what made their work so unique. We will look at major art movements like Impressionism, Cubism, and Surrealism. Students will also make their own art inspired by the artists we study.

SPORTS/ BUSINESS ELECTIVES

Sportology

Trimester 1

Teacher: Mr. Peter White

In this class, students will look at the physical game of sport as a cultural phenomenon. We will explore the impact sports has on society through multiple lenses. Students will take a deep dive into the world of sports management as they look to start their own sports franchise in a chosen city. We will think through and try to understand the philosophy of coaching as well as the psychology of athletes and the team as a whole. Through this journey, students will gain a deeper understanding of the universal obsession and global impact of sports!

MUSIC ELECTIVES

Music Theory & Composition

Trimester 1

Students will study basic music theory concepts throughout the trimester including rhythm, written notation, and harmony, preparing the students to compose their own short instrumental piece of music. Students will then have the opportunity to hear their compositions performed by high school orchestral students.

Recorder

Trimester 2

Students will learn to practice and play the recorder. Students will learn by reading written notation as well as by rote. However, this elective will not consist of your typical elementary music recorder lessons... students will be improvising, performing as soloists and in small groups, and writing original short pieces to play on recorder.

Broadcasting Musical Genres

Trimester 3

Students will explore a variety of musical genres, learning about popular artists, themes, and unique musical styles from each genre. Students will apply their knowledge, along with additional technological skills, to host their own radio station, selecting which music to play and providing background information to demonstrate their knowledge of a specific genre of music.

STEM ELECTIVES

eCybermission Student Choice Engineering Competition

Trimester 1

This course will have students find a problem in their community and engineer a solution using any technology they would like. Students will then research the problem, design a prototype, test the

prototype, iterate their solutions, and create an online presentation. eCybermission is a national competition sponsored by the US Army and the NSTA. (Students who take this course cannot take the Robotics Course the Following Trimester.)

Robotics

Trimester 2

Students will create a robot designed to compete in the US Army/NSTA eCybermission. The robot prototype will have to help find a solution to a problem in the community and be designed to solve the problem. Students can use Lego Mindstorm Robotics or Vex V5 robots with simple programming to more advanced coding.

Beginning Animation

Trimester 3

Learn how to create your own animated short using stop-motion animation, 2D drawing animation, and computer graphics. You will discover the fundamentals of shots and scenes, keyframes, timing, easing, spacing, and onion skinning. Then we will delve into Disney's 12 principles of animation to help make your animation come alive and to tell a story.

Code Quest: Build Games, Stories & Skills

Trimesters 1, 2 & 3

Teacher: Mrs. Goldberg

Ready to Code? Create Games, Animations & More! 🎮🐍

Jump into the world of coding with this exciting, hands-on class! You'll start by creating your own games, interactive stories, and animations using Scratch and Code.org. Then, level up your skills as you dive into Python — a powerful language used by real-world programmers! Along the way, you'll unlock problem-solving superpowers and learn how to think like a computer scientist. Whether you're a beginner or just love tech, this course is your gateway to coding fun!