

Albion Middle School

Elective Course Descriptions, 2021-22 School Year

Exploratory Arts Wheel

Exploratory Arts Wheel (6): This course consists of four different quarters of exploration that students will rotate through during the course of their 6th grade year: Visual Art, Creative Writing, Dance/Movement, and Music Appreciation. During the Visual Art rotation, students will work with multiple art mediums and create drawings, paintings, and sculptures. During the Creative Writing rotation, students will learn about and practice fun types of writing like a Studio C script and a Fractured Fairy Tale (just to name a few). Students will leave with a brain full of creative writing tools and tricks! During the Dance/Movement rotation, students will learn that anyone can dance by exploring different ways of moving, expressing themselves, and having fun with dance. During the Music Appreciation rotation, students will learn the basics of reading music, singing, and playing the ukulele. This course has a \$20 fee.

Visual Arts

2D Art (7-8): This course provides an overview of 2D Visual Arts (drawing, painting, printmaking, graphic design, etc.). Artists taking this course will experiment with a variety of art materials and tools while learning to use the digital design app Procreate, using iPads and Apple Pencils. With an emphasis on studio production, this course is designed to develop higher-level thinking, art related technology skills, art criticism, art history, and aesthetics. This course has a \$20 fee.

3D Art (7-8): This course develops basic skills in the creation of 3D forms and hand-built ceramics. Techniques in armatures, additive and subtractive sculpture, paper arts, papier mache, and basic ceramic process (building, basic glaze, and firing) will be taught. With an emphasis on studio production, this class is designed to develop higher-level thinking skills focused on problem solving. The Principles and Elements of Art will be taught, along with Vocabulary, Art History and Art Criticism. Some art-related technology skills may be included. This course has a \$30 fee.

Studio Art (8): Prerequisite: 2D Art and/or 3D Art or Instructor Approval

This course is designed for students who have already taken both 2D and 3D Art courses. Studio artists will have the opportunity to experiment with both 2D and 3D materials and their projects will be more choice driven. Students will need to be able to apply their knowledge of the Elements of Art and Principles of Design to their work (regardless of media) in order to demonstrate mastery of advanced level design skills and concepts. Ongoing critical analysis through group and individual critiques provide students with opportunities to learn to analyze their own work and their peers' work. Students are expected to also create art work outside of the classroom. This course has a \$30 fee.

Music

Band 1 (6-8): No previous musical experience is required for this course. This is a beginning band course offered for students who want to learn the flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, tuba, saxophone, or percussion instruments. We focus on playing mallet percussion instruments, not touching a drum until January at the earliest. This class will focus on playing their chosen instrument, reading music, and relationships between music and other areas of the core curriculum. Students will need an instrument, method book (provided by school), pencil, reeds (for clarinets, oboe, saxophone, and bassoon), valve oil and slide grease (for trumpets, horn, baritone, tuba), and slide oil (for trombone), and a cleaning rag or swab for their instrument. The larger brass instruments (tuba, baritone, a few trombones) are available to rent from the school based on financial need first, then on a first-come, first-served basis for all remaining instruments. This course has a \$20 fee.

Percussion (6-8): Prerequisite: Instructor Approval

Percussion ensemble (Band 2) is an intermediate to advanced percussion group. Students in this ensemble perform with symphonic band as well as on their own. Students will perform many times throughout the year both during the school day and at evening events. These students are expected to practice, which may require time after school on the instruments. Students are required to have a mallet bag (a pair of yarn mallets, a pair of rubber mallets, a pair of timpani mallets, and a pair of drumsticks), pencil, and their music. Any sixth grade student wishing to participate in percussion ensemble must audition for Mrs. Perkins before registering. Auditions will include B flat and E flat major scales, a prepared piece, and sight-reading. The auditions are used to make sure that students are placed within the correct performing group. This course has a \$20 fee.

Symphonic Band (6-8): Prerequisite: Audition/Interview

The symphonic band is the intermediate to advanced level band course focusing on ensemble performance. This course performs frequently during and outside of class time. Each performance is vital to the student's grade. An instrument, method book, and pencil are required for this course. Tuba, euphonium/baritone, French horn, baritone saxophone, oboe, and bassoons are all available to rent from the school for a low fee on a first-come, first-served basis. Students wishing to participate in this class must have participated in school for at least one year, or taken lessons privately. Any sixth grade student wishing to participate in the symphonic band must audition for Mrs. Perkins before registering. The audition will include playing B flat Major and E flat Major scales in one octave, a prepared piece, and sight-reading. The auditions are used to make sure that students are placed within the correct performing group. This course has a \$20 fee.

Orchestra 1 (6-8): No previous musical experience is required for this course. This is a beginning course for students who would like to play the violin, viola, cello, or string bass. This class will focus on playing their chosen instrument, reading music, and relationships between music and other areas of the core curriculum. Students will focus on learning how to play string instruments, read music, and just having a good time learning more about music in our world. Students will need an instrument, method book (provided by the school), pencil, and rosin (for their bow). Students wanting to play the cello or bass may rent the instrument from the school for a very low fee based on financial need first, then on a first-come, first-served basis. This course has a \$20 fee.

Orchestra 2 (6-8): Prerequisite: Audition/Instructor Approval

This is an intermediate to advanced level orchestra course focusing on ensemble performance. This course does perform frequently during and outside of class time, and these performances are an important part of the student's grade. An instrument, method book, pencil, and shoulder rest (for violin and viola) are required for this class. Cellos and basses are available to rent from the school at a low fee on a first-come, first-served basis. Students wishing to participate in this course must have participated in school orchestra for at least one year, or taken lessons privately. Any sixth grade student wishing to participate in Orchestra 2 must audition for Mrs. Perkins before registering. The audition will include playing G Major and D Major scales, a prepared piece, and sight-reading.

Please set up auditions by emailing Mrs. Perkins at: jennifer.perkins@canyonsdistrict.org. This course has a \$20 fee.

Choir (7-8): No previous singing experience is required for this course. This course is open to all students who enjoy singing. In this course students will learn the basic skills of correct vocal production, breathing, posture, and vowel pronunciation. Rehearsals and performances outside of class time are part of the course requirement and constitute a portion of the grade. This course has a \$20 fee.

Concert Choir (7-8): Prerequisite: Instructor Approval

This is an advanced choral group for those with previous musical experience. We will continue learning theory and technique, and will focus on performing challenging and fun choral literature (songs!). Rehearsals and performances outside of class time are part of the course requirement and course grade. This course has a \$20 fee.

Dance

Dance 1 (7-8): No previous dance experience is required for Dance 1, so anyone is welcome to join the fun! In this course, students will study the elements and fundamental skills and techniques of dance, including types of movement, technique, improvisation, and choreographic principals. Students will become more confident in themselves and confident in performing through frequent in-class group performances and performing in the Albion Dance Concert. This course has a \$20 fee.

Dance 2 (7-8): Prerequisite: Dance 1 or Instructor Approval

Students will build on skills learned in Dance 1 with added emphasis on technique, quality of movement, in-depth choreographic elements, and explorations in dance history. Students will frequently be working together to create their own dances. In-class performing occurs often, as well as concerts at night and assemblies for the school. This course has a \$30 fee.

Social Dance (7-8): This course offers instruction and practice in the social dance steps, rhythms, and techniques. The following dances may be included: line dances, popular dances, and ballroom dances. Potential ballroom styles include cha cha, waltz, foxtrot, swing, salsa, merengue, etc. This course has a \$20 fee.

Career & Technical Education

FCS Exploration Integrated (7): This Family and Consumer Science course provides students with essential life skills while having fun with hands-on experiences. The Foods and Nutrition curriculum is enhanced with cooking experiences in the classroom where students get to eat what they cook! In the Clothing and Textiles unit, students will learn basic sewing techniques and make four projects. Other subjects covered are Childcare, Interior Design, Independence and Personal Relationships, and Free Enterprise. This course has a \$20 fee.

FCS Exploration B (8): This Family and Consumer Science course provides students with essential life skills by studying nutrition in-depth and providing hands-on cooking experiences and fun, challenging competitions. Students will also have the opportunity to learn the responsibilities and experiences of caring for a child. Other skills taught include dealing with relationships, peer pressure, stress, and communication. This course has a \$20 fee.

English Language Arts

Creative Writing 1 (7-8): Note: This is **not** a repeat of the creative writing portion of Exploratory Arts wheel that most students take in 6th grade. However, if you liked that class, you'll love this one! Once upon a time, there was a course to help students learn how to make the ink on the page come alive! Learn how to create your very own creative writing masterpieces in this class. In this stimulating course students will practice as many different FUN types of creative writing as possible. Some examples of just a **few** of the fun projects we do are: urban legend, choose-your-own adventure, write your own TV show script, and crime scene creative writing. Come with your imagination ready, the sky is the limit!

Debate 1 (7-8): Don't you want to be able to win any argument with your parents? Come and learn how in debate! Skills learned in this debate class will help improve your writing, public speaking, creativity, confidence, and power of persuasion. You'll choose the type of speech or debate you want to specialize in: Policy Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Extemporaneous Speaking, or Oratory speaking. Then, you'll have the opportunity to be counted among the best of the best by competing in district-wide debate tournaments (competing in two tournaments is a requirement of the class, but most students love them so much that they go to more than just the required tournaments). Join our debate team and discover your path to fame and glory!

World Language

Spanish 1 (7-8): By the end of Spanish 1, students will have a more solid foundation of the Spanish language. Students will be able to use the language for daily functions like talking about their interests, their families, or ordering food at a café. Students will learn about Hispanic cultures in the context of real-world communication, and how learning to be socially appropriate in the Spanish language ties you to a global community of the Spanish-speaking world. This course has a \$20 fee.

Fundamentals of Spanish 2 (8): Prerequisite: Spanish 1

By the end of the year of Fundamentals of Spanish 2, students can understand and speak Spanish using simple sentences, mostly in the present tense. They are able to begin participating in conversations about their weekend plans, homes, chores and daily routines. They will also be able to ask a broader range of questions to get information they need in daily life such as buying clothes and accepting and declining invitations. Students can read and write in the language as well, connecting longer strings of sentences into more unique and personal expression. They begin working on telling about their life in the past tense and projecting events in the future. Culture will be embedded into curriculum. This course has a \$20 fee.

Miscellaneous Electives

Teacher's Aide/Office Aide (7-8): Application required-pick one up from the counseling center

This is a course that offers students a unique experience working with teachers and/or office staff. This position provides an opportunity to observe and model adults at work. Aides experience the opportunity to practice reliable citizenship and social skills as they interact with peers, school staff and the general public.

Peer Tutoring (7-8): Application required-pick one up from the counseling center

Students in this course work under the supervision of Special Education teachers in assisting students who have special needs or disability conditions. It is designed for individuals who are interested in pursuing a career in fields such as education, sociology, psychology, or social work. Because Peer Tutors are placed in a position of trust, they are expected to be highly responsible and mature in judgement.