

2017-18 School Year

5th Grade Elective Track Course Descriptions

Theater Foundations

All students should have the opportunity to experience the fine arts as part of a well-rounded curriculum and complete education. The study of drama helps students explore realities, relationships, and ideas that cannot be expressed simply in words, numbers, or the other arts. Theater Foundations class nurtures creativity, educates the whole child, and helps each one learn the important life-skills that theater demonstrates above and beyond just acting and comprehension.

Major Instructional Goals:

- Identify and define theater types, terminology, some history, and stage directions
- Display signs of overcoming stage-fright, increased confidence in story-telling through drama
- Identify plot structure and the elements within
- Display some comprehension of Shakespeare and other playwrights
- Use memorization and performance skills in monologues, scenes, and plays

Dance

In this class, students will learn proper dance technique and terminology. Classical ballet is the focus, while creative movement and basic Jazz skills are incorporated to give variety and versatility. Classes are taught based on Mignon Furman's American Academy of Ballet technique as well as the Royal Academy of Dance method. Students will be able to discern and demonstrate correct alignment, use correct French terminology, and be able to memorize and perform choreography for the end-of-the-year showcase.

Strings

Offers students the opportunity to study violin, viola, cello, and bass in a string ensemble/orchestra setting. Right and left hand technique exercises, including scales, and arpeggios will be taught. Strictly Strings Method Book One, and Suzuki Book One repertoire will be utilized as preparation for fun classical, and popular, string orchestra works. The art of "Busking" will also be introduced. Students: You will learn to work as a team and perform like rock stars! This class will build confidence, and high self-esteem, leadership, respect, improve memory, nurture creativity, support coordination and balance, plus offer a bit of musical history. Performances in school and around the St. George area will be introduced. Instruction on the care and maintenance of stringed instruments will also be included.

Piano

Piano students will learn in a networked, digital, college level, piano lab setting that enables students to work individually, in small groups, or as an entire class. Coursework will include a curriculum with a highly individualized note reading component, allowing for higher self-paced achievement options. Group instruction and activities will enhance individual progress through frequent in-class performances. Student teaching opportunities, historical lessons, ear training, and chord-piano instruction will also be included. Students will perform in public recitals, and have opportunities to participate in judged festivals and competitions. A home piano or keyboard is not required, but a regular home practice routine is encouraged as much as possible. Technology components like recording, web-based learning tools, and composition tools will be incorporated into the curriculum. We may even have a little fun while we are at it!

Beginning Band

Students in beginning band will learn a wind instrument in a large ensemble setting. Our ensemble consists of flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, and trombone. Students will be required to choose and acquire their own instrument for this class. There will be occasional rehearsals outside of regular school hours. We will have two instrumental concerts combine with Percussion Ensemble each year and may also participate in other local events or festivals. Students will be graded on weekly practice charts and concert attendance. Renting or purchasing instruments from a local music store is required. Purchasing a method book is required for their specific instrument choice from the Tradition of Excellence Method by Bruce Pearson.

Beginning Guitar

This course covers basic guitar technique, note reading, chords, strumming patterns, and fingerpicking. By the end of this course, students will learn to proficiently play, and accompany, basic melodies. Students will learn at least one solo piece and perform in two group projects. This course prepares students for the Intermediate Guitar course.

Percussion Ensemble

In this class we will learn fundamentals in ensemble practice and performance through instruments from the percussion family. This means we will use mallet instruments, auxiliary instruments, and a variety of drums. Percussionists are required to have a pair of drumsticks and a snare drum/bell kit. We will rehearse and perform selections from a full range of styles, including classical, jazz, and popular music. Performances will be combine with Beginning Band with occasional opportunities to perform in the community.