

2018-19 School Year

4th Grade Elective Track Course Descriptions

In 4th grade, students spend the first few weeks of the school year in an exploratory class in Theater Foundations, Dance, Strings and Piano. After these introductory weeks, students will be allowed to choose two of the four elective courses to continue on in throughout 4th grade.

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, and stage directions
- Display signs of overcoming stage-fright, increased confidence in story-telling through drama
- Identify plot structure

Demonstrate Playmaking skills by applying Plot Structure to original scenes, skits, and plays

- 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!