

2018-19 School Year

7th-8th Grade Elective Course Descriptions

Digital Media 1

This course is an introduction to creating digital projects with programs from the Adobe Creative Suite. During the first 12 weeks of class, students will learn about the elements of design, typography, and text manipulation as they create and work with vector shapes and use the basic tools in Adobe Illustrator. Next we will spend 4 weeks studying best practices in photography and videography and the proper use of a DSLR camera. During the following 12 weeks, students will be immersed in Adobe Photoshop learning about raster graphics, photo manipulation, selections, and image corrections. We will end the year with 12 weeks of Adobe Premiere Pro, shooting digital video, recording audio, and creating video projects on a timeline using transitions and video effects. Videos will be entered into the Vista Technology Awards at the end of the year. Throughout the course, students will learn about file types, best uses, and how to export each of them.

Digital Media 2

This course will cover a more indepth look at storytelling through digital media. Students will learn the steps of the video production process. Students will learn and implement strategies of organizing and scripting a story and follow the process through to a final product. This course will cover, skills and techniques used to enhance video and multimedia productions like composition, lighting and effects. Students will gain a basic understanding of DSLR cameras and their function as well as the basics of ISO, aperture and shutter speed through filming and taking photographs. This course is intended as a project based course to engage students. Projects from this course will prepare students to enter their work in the vista technology awards at the end of each year.

Intro 3D/Creative Coding/Robotics/Engineering

An introduction to 3D design, 3D Printing, Coding, Robotics and Engineering. This course will cover all 4 areas and give students a basic understanding with hands on experience. 4 sections will be split up between two classes and two teachers. Students will rotate half way into the year to the other section.

- Creative Coding-Robotics is an introductory course intended for students to explore the art of coding. With the growing demand for computer programmers, coding is an exciting career to explore. Aligned with national computer science standards, this course will introduce students to coding terms and elements. Students will learn basics of computer processes and functions while working on coding projects such as using the code on electronic boards and robots. Students will also learn basic coding including order of operations, rules and basic commands of mostly HTML and Python. Students will be engaged in various languages including scratch, html/css, and python. This is a fun, fast paced course where student creativity is encouraged with every project. Students who have any interest in computers or coding are encouraged to take this course!
- 3D-Engineering - Students will learn to engineer and design a basic 3D model, and then print it on a 3D printer. The 3D models can be used in a variety of ways. The class will focus on parts for Robotics and Engineering. Class projects will be incorporated as the class brings the 3D-Design, Printing and Coding into real life application.

Coding with Robotics (Coding II)

This course is designed to extend what is taught in creative coding (prerequisite) to the physical world of electronics and robotics. This lab-style class is where students will explore the application of various programming languages to see how they are used in the world around us. Students gain a deeper understanding of coding and programming languages. Students will also learn basic electrical concepts in order to build circuits to make LED lights flash and motors turn extra. Students will be engaged through various platforms including Arduino and Raspberry Pi computers. Students will explore the application of robotics in industry and program robots to perform various tasks. This course is a prerequisite to Advanced Competition Robotics.

Advanced Competition Robotics (Coding II Prerequisite)

Advanced Robotics is a hands-on project-based STEM education course where students learn teamwork, collaboration, and computational thinking. This course is intended to excite and engage the inner engineer and mechanic. In this advanced course, students will apply what they have learned in 3D Engineering and Coding. Students will build from components and program robots and automated machines to perform problem-solving tasks. This course will cover key concepts and engineering principles such as simple machines, mechanical advantage, and forces. Students will also be introduced to electromechanical, hydraulic, and pneumatic systems. This course is intended to prepare students to compete in robotic competitions.

Computer Engineering and 3D Design II (Intro to Computer Engineering and 3D Design prerequisite)

Students will gain deeper knowledge and experience of Computer 3D Design. Students will use software programs such as Fusion 360, Tinkercad, Sketchup, Sculptris and other software to design these objects. Classroom projects will include structural and hardware design. Group projects will build collaboration skills and be used to build objects with parts such as Arduino, Raspberry Pi, electronic boards and 3D printed models. This class will work in conjunction with the "Coding" course on collaborative projects including robotics that require some programming from the coding class.

College and Career Awareness/Digital Literacy

College and Career Awareness offers exploration and preparation in seven college and career pathways including Business & Marketing, Agriculture, Health Science, Information Technology, Technology and Engineering, Family and Consumer Science, and Skilled and Technical Science. This course is designed to help students identify their interests and abilities and to develop beginning life skills. With appropriate developmental information related to careers, educational pathways, and self-knowledge, students are able to begin to make college and career goals for the future. This course is also an introduction to computer literacy. Students will learn common computer terminology, commands, and will perform basic tasks in word processing, spreadsheets, presentation programs, and databases. They will also research and understand digital lifestyle topics and will complete a digital literacy project.

Theater Tech

In order to be well rounded and educated in theatre, a student needs to understand all elements of it. Theatre is a collaborative art form and it takes many hands to put a show together. In this class students will learn what goes into scenic design and construction, lighting, costuming, and providing props for a theatrical production through in-class instruction, hands on projects, and some practical experience. Don't worry about previous experience. You will gain a lot of knowledge from taking this class. It won't be easy - but it will be hard work and it will be worth it.

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 and 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, history, culture, and stage directions
- Display signs of overcoming stage-fright – increased confidence in story-telling through drama
- Use analytical skills while reading scripts and watching performances
- Identify PLOT STRUCTURE, and be familiar with Aristotelian elements of drama
 - Demonstrate a working knowledge of Plot Structure by creating/writing original pieces
- Display comprehension of Shakespeare and other playwrights
- Use memorization and performance skills in monologues, scenes, and plays
- Prepare a portfolio for future audition opportunities.
- Preparation for entering 9th grade and High School drama

Choir

The vocal music classes at Vista will focus on helping students to develop a love for the art and science of music. These classes will be fast paced and exciting as students learn music from many time periods that support the lessons in their academic classes. Music composition and theory will be included in the curriculum with the primary focus of each class being centered on singing because the human voice is the most portable instrument of all. Students enrolled in these classes should expect to have a lot of fun as they explore and perform many different styles of music, and they will experience the magic that music has to improve their confidence and academic achievement.

Dance Technique

In this class, students will learn proper dance technique and terminology. Classical ballet is the focus, while 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 for Ballet and Jazz steps, and be able to memorize and perform choreography for the end-of-the-year showcase.

Music Dance Theater

This awesome 2 block class is team-taught among the Music, Dance, and Theater teachers. Students are given the opportunity to be instructed in Music, Dance, and Theater every week! During the Theater section of this class, we will be delving into a few different sections. First, we will discuss Musical Theatre History, and follow up with a section on Plays vs. Musicals. We will also be working on acting and adding character to the songs you choose for your solos. Dance - Musical Theater Dance is an exposure to all types of dance with an emphasis on Ballet, Jazz and Tap techniques. This course will teach technique, terminology, and choreography. After the holiday season, we will apply the skills we've learned by preparing for our year end curriculum performance.

Major Instructional Goals:

- Identify and define Musical Theater terminology, history, and culture
- Display signs of overcoming stage-fright, increased confidence in storytelling through Musical Theater
- Use memorization and performance skills in solo and group performances

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.

Intermediate Guitar

This course covers basic barre chords, embellished chords, fingerpicking, moderately complex strumming patterns, note reading, composing, and improvising. Students will learn to creatively accompany melodies and soloists, play popular pieces of music, and read guitar tablature. This course is designed for students who already have some fundamental knowledge in both note reading and chords. Instructor permission is required before signing up for this class. This course prepares students for guitar courses offered at Tucahn High School.

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. Students will receive in depth group instruction through unit based lessons. Concepts will come from music theory and music history topics. Proficiency will be monitored at an individual level. Practice will be built into class. Literature will include both required and student-selected materials chosen from classical, seasonal or popular material. Students will perform in class and in recital venues regularly. Students will have the chance to perform collaboratively through duets, small ensembles, or with other large ensembles. The curriculum will also be expanded from the 5th Grade course to include ear-training, composition, and music technology topics.

Beginning Band

Students in beginning band will learn a wind or percussion instrument in a large ensemble setting. Students will be required to choose and acquire their own instrument for this class. Percussionists are required to have a pair of drumsticks and a snare drum/bell kit. There will be occasional rehearsals outside of regular school hours. We will have two instrumental concerts each year and may also participate in other local events or festivals. Students will be graded on weekly practice charts and concert attendance.

Students will be required to obtain their own method book for their specific instrument choice from the Tradition of Excellence Method by Bruce Pearson. Our band does not currently include guitar instruction. Students with a bass guitar and an amp may be invited to participate. Students will be given instruction on auxiliary percussion instruments at the end of the year.

Intermediate Band

This is our band program for students who have had one year experience or more on a wind or percussion instrument. Students will continue to enhance their playing skills through rehearsals and performances. Performances will include at least one parade where the students will march with their instrument. Students will continue to have performance opportunities in school concerts, festivals, local events and for their peers at school. Students will continue to work and practice in their method book Tradition of Excellence Bk. 1 and 2 but will play from band charts for most of our concert materials. This course will also include additional rehearsals outside of school. Percussionist will expand their skills to a large range of auxiliary instrument parts that will be split and shared with their section. Music will include parade music, concert selections, Christmas and seasonal selections, festival selections and spring pop and jazz tunes.

Strings

Strings will offer students the opportunity to continue the study of violin, viola, cello, and bass as a chamber orchestra. Right and left hand technique exercises, scales, arpeggios, etudes, Suzuki Book I and II, and the String Calisthenics Method Book will be used in preparation for exciting intermediate to advanced musical selections. These selections will be performed for school concerts and special musical events, as well as music festivals in and around the St. George area. The art of "Busking" will also be introduced as another playing opportunity. The 6-8th grade string students will also be instructed as a team, on how to lead the orchestra without a conductor! Students: You will learn to work as a finely tuned musical machine, and as a result, perform like champions! This class will build confidence, high self-esteem, leadership, respect, improve memory, nurture creativity, support coordination and balance. We will create responsible and capable musical artists with the potential of helping their parents pay their way through college. Instruction on the care and maintenance of stringed instruments will also be included.

Advanced Orchestra

Will accept string candidates who have successfully completed the 6-8 Grade Strings Class and who have auditioned for the music director. Audition requirements are: One 3 octave major scale and arpeggio, mm-50 per note, non-vibrato, and a 2 minute solo of student's choice. Cello and Bass have the option to perform a two octave major scale and arpeggio, mm-50 per note, non-vibrato, and a 2 minute solo of their choice. There will be an ensemble piece chosen by the director. The candidate will be asked to perform this piece with members of the current Vista Advanced Orchestra. Upon acceptance, the student will study right and left hand technique exercises, scales, arpeggios, and have assignments from the String Calisthenics Method Book as well as Suzuki Book II and III. This will be in preparation for exciting intermediate to advanced musical selections which will be performed for school concerts and special musical events, as well as music festivals in and around the St. George area. The art of "Busking" will also be introduced or continued. There will also be instruction on how to perform without a conductor! Students: You will learn to work as a finely tuned musical machine, enabling your present playing ability to improve above its current level. The goal is to reach a playing level much higher than the average middle school music student is expected to achieve. As a result, you will perform like a champion. In addition, you will build confidence, high self-esteem, leadership, respect, improve memory, nurture creativity, support coordination and balance and become a responsible and capable musician/artist with the potential of helping your parents pay your way through college. Instruction on the care and maintenance of stringed instruments will also be included. Audition preparation techniques will be introduced, combining breathing techniques and memory tips.

Visual Art

Students will learn important elements of making and appreciating art, through emphasis on important artists, works of art, and artistic concepts. Students will review, develop, and apply concepts introduced in previous grades, as they work with and explore many different mediums. We will focus on combining art history with analysis of specific illustrative works.

Health

Students will learn how to become well in the areas of physical, mental, emotional, social, and spiritual health. This course includes a variety of applicable topics such as drug resistance, coping strategies, peer pressure, self-esteem, and healthy relationships.

Sports and Conditioning

This PE class will focus on sports conditioning with an emphasis on speed, agility, strength, cardio endurance and flexibility. A variety of equipment will be used including kettlebells, dumbbells, wall balls, TRX straps, bosu balls, yoga balls, jump ropes, steps, and resistance tubing. Proper and safe exercise form will be taught. Sports and fitness games will also be played throughout the year.

Spanish

Spanish 1 is a communicative beginning-level Spanish course. Students will begin to develop their Spanish proficiency through extensive interaction in the target language. Through videos, students see and hear native speakers in authentic locations around the Spanish speaking world. Each unit includes a variety of interactive activities, cultural notes, and cultural interviews. The activities help build competency in each of the four language skills—listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

7th grade Team Sports and Fitness

In this Physical Education class there will be an emphasis on physical fitness. Each class period, students will be expected to participate in a workout incorporating the three components of exercise-cardiovascular, strength and flexibility. A variety of equipment will be used including kettlebells, dumbbells, wall balls, TRX straps, bosu balls, yoga balls, jump ropes, steps, and resistance tubing. Safe and proper exercise form will be taught. 7th graders will be learning the basic rules and skills to the following sports-Volleyball, Soccer, Badmitten and Flag Football. Teamwork and good sportsmanship will also be emphasised.

8th grade Team Sports and Fitness

In this Physical Education class there will be an emphasis on physical fitness. Each class period, students will be expected to participate in a workout incorporating the three components of exercise-cardiovascular, strength and flexibility. A variety of equipment will be used including kettlebells, dumbbells, wall balls, TRX straps, bosu balls, yoga balls, jump ropes, steps, and resistance tubing. Safe and proper exercise form will be taught. 8th graders will be learning the basic rules and skills to the following sports-Pickleball, Baseball, Basketball and Ultimate Frisbee. Teamwork and good sportsmanship will also be emphasised.

Dance Conditioning

This class is a non-performance dance class that focuses on building muscle memory to improve line and gain overall mastery of dance fundamentals. Course will focus primarily on ballet barre work as well as center and across the floor ballet and jazz combinations. Course syllabus is a combination of curriculum from American Academy of Ballet Curriculum and Royal Academy of Dance. This is a required course for all 7th and 8th grade students in Dance Company.