

# 2020-21 School Year

## 4th 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 are: 1) Identify and define theater types, terminology, and stage directions, 2) Display signs of overcoming stage-fright, increased confidence in story-telling through drama, 3) Identify plot structure, 4) Demonstrate Playmaking skills by applying Plot Structure to original scenes, skits, and plays, 5) 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 foundation while creative movement and basic Jazz skills are incorporated to give variety and versatility. Classes are structured around American Academy of Ballet and RAD syllabus. Students will be able to discern and demonstrate correct alignment and use correct French terminology. Students will memorize and perform choreography in fall production of The Nutcracker as well as the Spring dance showcase. Students will have an opportunity to perform ballet, jazz, & contemporary/hip-hop by the end of the year.

### **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!

### **Exploring Technology 4**

In this elective course, students will explore many different components of technology. This hands on STEM class will introduce students to circuits, coding, robotics and more. Students will integrate basic code with robotic platforms such as sphero, drones, Lego EV3, and VEX IQ. Students will learn to collaborate with others to implement science principles such as simple machines to solve problems using snap together robotic components. Students will gain a basic understanding of the engineering design process as they create and build various projects. This course is intended as an introduction and jump start to Vista's 3D engineering, coding, and robotics classes offered to 6th-8th grade students.