

2020-21 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

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

- 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 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!

Beginning Band

This course is for incoming 5th grade students who want to learn how to play any of the following instruments:

- Flute
- Oboe
- Clarinet
- Bassoon
- Trumpet
- Trombone
- Euphonium
- Tuba

Beginners don't start on Saxophone, French Horn, or Percussion. If you wish to learn saxophone, you should start on clarinet. If you wish to play french horn, you should start on trumpet. There will be auditions in January each year to determine who will move to saxophone or french horn. Percussionists do not join this class! Percussion is a separate class that is auditioned (see section for percussion elective).

In this class, students need not have previous musical knowledge, though it is welcomed. We start at square one - reviewing how to read music, learning to hold the instrument, breathe to get sound, and other basic concepts of playing! We perform all together in multiple concerts throughout the year, making beautiful music as a combined group of budding musicians! It's an exciting class, but not everything can be learned during school. This class requires students to sacrifice some of their time at home to practice each day. While it is not easy, it is so much fun and worth it!

Beginner students are required to rent their own instrument from a reputable store. There will be an instrument fitting night each year before registration, which is mandatory to join this class. It helps Mr. Clegg find the right instrument for each student. Contact Mr. Clegg at cclegg@vistautah.com to ask for more details about this class.

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

This course is an auditioned group that teaches those who want to learn how to play 4 main percussion instruments:

- Keyboards (Marimba, Xylophone, Glockenspiel)
- Timpani
- Snare Drum
- Auxiliary Instruments

Percussion students play percussion parts of the Beginning and Intermediate Band pieces, as well as their own percussion ensemble pieces. There will be multiple opportunities to perform throughout the year. Because demand for this class is high, there will be a day where students can audition to be in this class. All students who want to join **must** audition, even if they were in the percussion class the previous year. Contact Mr. Clegg at cclegg@vistautah.com for more details.

Note: this is NOT a "rock band" class! Drumset is not taught in our curriculum. Do not attempt to join this class if you want to learn to play drums.

Exploring Technology 5

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.