

2020-21 School Year

8th Grade Elective Course Descriptions

Digital Media I

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 II

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.

Music Production

This course is intended to introduce students to technology related to music production. Students with a musical background or students with an interest in music will learn the skills to produce and record music. The content of the class will cover a variety of topics including audio recording and mixing, editing, and music production. Students will gain an in-depth understanding of various audio equipment and how to use it to create original works using tools used by professionals. Additionally students will learn the tools and skills to record live performances here at vista. Students will explore careers in music technology and music production while having fun being creative and developing new skills.

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 II (Intro to 3D Design/Creative Coding/Robotics/Engineering prerequisite)

This course is designed to extend what is taught in intro to creative coding 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 Robotics II.

Advanced Robotics

Advanced Robotics is a hands-on project-based STEM education course where students work in teams to collaborate, design, and build a VEX robot and other robotic and automated systems. Students who have completed **or are enrolled** in Coding with Robotics OR 3D engineering II are encouraged to take this course. This course will cover key concepts and engineering principles such as simple machines, mechanical advantage, and hydraulic and pneumatic systems. Students in this class will also be encouraged to participate in the VEX robotics VCE after school program to compete on a competitive robotics team against teams from other schools.

Computer Engineering and 3D Design II (Intro to 3D Design/Creative Coding/Robotics/Engineering prerequisite)

Students will gain deeper knowledge and experience of Computer 3D Design. Students will use software programs such as Fusion 360, Tinkercad, Sketchup, Sculpttris 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.

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.

- a. Highly effective memorization skills – monologues, scenes, lyrics
 - i. Tried multiple tools and found the ones that work
- b. Highly effective performance skills – alone and in an ensemble
 - i. projection, diction, characterization, “physicalization” – pantomime, tableau, Stanislavski Method, Suzuki Method, etc.
 - ii. Proficiency in different performance genres/styles
 - iii. Be able to create an in-depth character w/justification from text.
- c. Recognize and be able to define many theater terms/vocabulary

- d. Working basic knowledge of theater history (Greek, Roman, Medieval, Shakes, etc.)
 - e. Read and write a script – recognize/develop profound plot structure in both
 - f. Measurable growth in personal confidence in front of an audience (less stage-fright) -- Belief in oneself
 - g. Measurable individual growth – as a person – not just a performer
- > Prepare a portfolio for future audition opportunities.
- > Preparation for entering 9th grade and High School drama

Concert Choir

This exploratory vocal music class 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. Sight singing, vocal pedagogy, music history, and music theory are included in a well rounded curriculum. 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.

Advanced Choir

This is a non auditioned group that requires students to have at least one full year of experience in another choir and selection from the director to participate in. Advanced choir performs in many events throughout the year and focuses on developing within each student strength in vocal music performance. Many music genres will be performed and opportunities for student accompanists are encouraged. Students will improve their knowledge and skill within music theory concepts including sight singing, stage presence, and vocal pedagogy. Students will also be encouraged to sing as a soloist as well as in small groups to enhance their overall confidence in their changing voices.

Dance Technique

This class is a non-performance dance class that focuses on building muscle memory to improve line and gain overall mastery of dance fundamentals. 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.

Dance Company

This is an auditioned class. Auditions are held in the spring. Dancers in this company are required to commit to performances in Shakespeare competition (Principal company only), the Nutcracker, at Jubilee of Trees, and the Spring showcase. Class time is used to develop intermediate and advanced level dance technique as well as rehearse performance pieces. Some outside rehearsal time is also required.

Music Dance Theater

This awesome two block class is team-taught between 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.

Advanced 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 Tuacahn 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.

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.

Beginning Band

This course is for incoming 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.

Intermediate Band

This course is for students who have one or more years of experience playing a wind instrument. Intermediate players are those who have shown through hard work and rehearsing well in Mr. Clegg's class that they are able to play four major scales, describe how to practice effectively, and want to take their musical ability to the next level. Students in this class will get the opportunity to play in several concerts throughout the year, play at community events and fundraisers, play in small groups, and compete in festivals where they are given feedback from a panel of judges.

Intermediate 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 ensure that every intermediate band member comes to class with an instrument that is high quality and in good repair. Contact Mr. Clegg at cclegg@vistautah.com to ask for more details about this class.

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 two 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.

Yearbook/Desktop Publishing

This course will provide students with a basic understanding of the field of desktop publishing. The ins and outs of Adobe Illustrator will be explored in this class. Students will learn how to use tools to implement effective design strategies. This course will include the use of Photoshop to create and edit images, while exploring both the technical and aesthetic aspects of image manipulation. Students in this course will also produce the yearbook while learning about page layout and design, typography, color and the use and placement of images.

Transportation and Manufacturing Technology

An introductory course that focuses on the world of transportation and manufacturing technology. This hands on class will help students gain an understanding of how transportation and manufacturing technologies impact politics, the environment, society, and the economy. Students will design, build, and test various transportation models to help expand their understanding of occupational opportunities in the world of transportation and manufacturing. This class is intended for students that like to make things move as well as those interested in various forms of transportation.