

Electives Course Description

Band I Beginning (Full Year)

Learn the basics of playing a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument. Students will learn the basics of music and reading music while rehearsing daily as an ensemble and preparing pieces to perform as a group. Music experience is helpful, but not necessary.

Band I Intermediate (Full Year)

For students who have had one year of Band. Continuation of Beginning Band. Students will continue to play their instrument daily in a group as they explore new notes, rhythms, and more challenging pieces.

Chorus (Semester)

This is a semester-long choir class with a mix of 6th and 7th graders. In addition to singing, students will learn basic music theory fundamentals, how to work as a group, and perform in front of others. The culmination of our work in this class will be showcased at two after-school concerts. No experience is needed, we have a fun time singing and making music together!

Chorus I ADV (Full Year)

This is a year-long choir class for 7th grade students. In this class we delve deeper into music theory and music reading. There are a few opportunities for recruitment field trips and trips to perform at different festivals. We will have four after-school concerts along with a few in-school performances. This is a class for students who have any music experience and want to develop their skills in making music and singing as a group!

Beginning Orchestra (Full Year) (Violin, Viola, Cello, and Bass)

This class is designed for students who are new to string instruments (have never played) or have limited experience. Using the New Directions for Strings Book 1, we will explore fundamental skills such as proper posture, bowing techniques, basic rhythms, and note reading. Alongside the book, students will learn and perform a variety of engaging beginning pieces that build confidence and ensemble skills. By the end of the course, students will develop a solid foundation in playing their instrument and performing as part of an orchestra. No prior experience is necessary—just bring your enthusiasm and love of music!

Beginning Orchestra Level 2 (Full Year) (Violin, Viola, Cello and Bass)

This class is for students who have played their string instrument for one year or longer. Using New Directions for Strings Book 2 and other easy songs, students will learn new skills like better bowing, shifting, and reading harder rhythms. We will work on making a nice sound, playing in tune, and playing together as a group. Students will practice and perform to get ready for more advanced music. This class helps students keep improving and have fun making music together.

Exploratory Arts (Semester)

Exploratory art is a class which provides students with a creative and social outlet creating connections with each other and art. We focus on creative expression, exploration, and building foundational skills such as the basic elements of art which are the "building blocks" of art such as (line, shape, color, texture). We introduce and create projects using multiple types of art supplies from colored pencils, oil pastels and watercolor which help to develop important artistic techniques and cognitive development such as problem solving, building confidence and learning to embrace happy accidents. In introductory art we also learn about and incorporate the history and culture of art. Introducing students to an array of artists and their expansive mediums, genre and themes and time periods.

STEM (Semester)

In STEM, students tackle hands-on projects that blend science, technology, engineering, and math to solve real-world challenges. They work in groups to design, build, test, and improve their ideas while following the engineering design process. Projects range from building cardboard creations to coding challenges, classroom competitions, and engineering design activities that encourage creativity and critical thinking. Along the way, students practice teamwork and develop college and career-ready skills while also learning to communicate their work through engineering notebooks and digital tools. The class is designed to be active, collaborative, and practical, giving students a space to explore how STEM applies to everyday life.

Intro to Theater (Semester)

This Intro to Theater class is your chance to step onto the stage and bring stories to life! You'll learn the whole process of putting on a show, from imagining the characters to taking a bow. We'll start by practicing your **imagination** and learning to **work with your classmates** to make group decisions. You will study plays to understand how they work and practice key performance skills like **developing characters** with believable dialogue and mastering **vocal and movement techniques** to show your character's emotions. You'll also explore the technical side by learning to use **props, costumes, and set design** to create a specific mood or setting. By the end of the class, you'll be able to **analyze and perform** scenes, give helpful feedback, and understand how theater can help us explore real-world issues in a fun, hands-on way.

Media Arts (Full Year)

This Media Arts class is where you become the director! You'll learn the full process of making movies and videos, starting from a tiny idea and turning it into a polished film. We cover everything from **early planning (pre-production)** to the finished project, using hands-on assignments like creating **Instructional Videos, PSAs, Documentaries, and short Films**. You'll master key skills like **storyboarding**, choosing the best **camera shots and angles**, and using **editing software (Post Production)** to make your work look professional and clearly tell your story. Plus, we'll talk about important stuff like **copyright and media ethics** so you can be a responsible and smart creator in the digital world. This class is only for 7th graders.