

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Electives



Art

Course Description and Goals

This semester long elective course focuses on creative self-expression through a variety of media. Students will utilize a diversity of techniques and styles while engaging in the creative process. Through participating in individual and group projects, students will learn the historical and cultural context of the visual arts, and how to respond to and analyze works of art. Students will gain skills to actively manipulate materials in an aesthetic fashion and become confident in their ability to express and create.

Anticipated Course Projects:

- Graffiti name tags
- Google Doodles
- Elements of Art Pizzas
- Design mix-up pop art
- Multicultural masks
- Chuck Close Portraits
- Surrealist Exquisite Corpses
- Op art
- Origami mobiles
- Art history unibirthday boxes
- Nature collages
- Project of your own choosing! (Art in the Abode project)

Open to: Grades 7 and 8

Prerequisite:

Course Length: Semester

Class fee: No

Teacher approval: No

Required Course: No

Grading policy: Letter grade



Choir

Course Description and Goals

This course is designed to offer vocal music education, and performing opportunities. The primary focus of this ensemble class will be to study vocal performance. Music theory and music history will also be elements in this class. Many different musical styles will be studied through the semester. This group will perform at a concert, and they will attend a festival where they will be adjudicated by a panel of judges. This class will focus on music fundamentals, and basic performing techniques.

We will be using the NFHS Music Adjudication form as a format for our critical listening and playing portions of the curriculum. A copy of the form can be found on the following web site. <http://www.idahomusiced.org/forms/largegroup/downloads/Large%20Group.pdf>

Content

- Improving individual vocal technique
- Extended range development on individual voices
- Rhythms and counting techniques
- Major scales
- Solfege
- Interval training
- Singing in different languages
- Music theory
- Listening skills
- Balance and blend
- Intonation
- Sight reading

Participation

Students need to come to class with music and necessary classroom supplies to redeem full formative points for the day. Students cannot develop formative learning if they do not come prepared to class. If a student is unable to, or does not participate in the class, then point will not be awarded. (Formative Homework Assignment – in development)



Choir continued

Concert Attendance

Concert attendance is a mandatory part of the summative assessment. We work hard in class to prepare music for a public performance. If a conflict or illness inhibits you from making a mandatory performance, full or partial credit can be attained by completing a “Missed Concert” assignment. It will be provided to you upon your request. Additional credit is given for attending public concert performances.

Concert Schedules

Please refer to the calendar and web page for updated concert schedules

Benchmarks

Benchmarks are singing tests designed to help students learn new concepts as they progress through the class. Individual and group tests will be given to determine an individual education plan for students.

Grading Policy

Grades will be assigned based on formative work developed in class, performance attendance, completed practice time (practice at home), and “benchmark tests” (playing tests). Information gathered with assessments will be used to develop a plan for individual improvement.



Choir continued

Grading System:

15% Formative Assessments

- Daily work in class
- Daily assessments conducted in class to form learning
- Other TBD

85% Summative Assessments

- Concerts
- End of Unit tests
- Benchmark exams
- TBD

Open to: Grades 7 and 8

Prerequisite:

Course Length: Semester

Class fee: No

Teacher approval: No

Required Course: No

Grading policy: Letter grade; see above



Concert Band

Course Description and Goals

This course is designed to offer instrumental music education, and performing opportunities. The primary focus of this ensemble class will be to study instrumental performance. Music theory and music history will also be elements in this class. Many different musical styles will be studied through the year. This group will give several concerts through the year, and they will attend a festival where they will be adjudicated by a panel of judges. This class will focus on music fundamentals and basic performing techniques.

We will be using the NFHS Music Adjudication from as a format for our critical listening and playing portions of the curriculum. A copy of the form can be found on the following web site:

<http://www.idahomusiced.org/forms/largergroup/downloads/Large%20Group.pdf>

Content

- Improving individual skill on instrument
- Extended range development on individual instruments
- Agility and accuracy on instruments
- Rhythms and counting techniques
- Beginning major scales, and scale patterns
- Chromatic scale (Bb and F Concert)
- Marching band/pep band curriculum
- Listening skills
- Balance and blend
- Intonation
- Sight reading
- Theory
- History
- Other



Concert Band continued

Participation

Students need to come to class with instrument, music, and necessary classroom supplies to redeem full formative points for the day. Students cannot develop formative learning if they do not come to class prepared. If a student is unable to, or does not participate in the class, points will not be awarded. (Formative Homework Assignment – in development)

Concert Attendance

Concert attendance is a mandatory part of the summative assessment. We work hard in class to prepare music for a public performance. If a conflict or illness inhibits you from making a mandatory performance, full or partial credit can be attained by completing a “Missed Concert” assignment. It will be provided to you upon your request. Additional credit is given for attending public concert performances.

Concert Schedules

Please refer to the calendar and webpage for updated concert schedules.

Practice Time

Students need to be practicing at home. Practice time is intended to help students retain the information covered in class. This time should be used to practice the selections the students need to play as a “Benchmark,” as well as other materials/concepts covered in class. It is recommended that students practice two 20 minutes practice sessions per week to develop the muscles necessary to play. If your child wants to play more please encourage them to do so. Students may practice more if they would like. Students will be given practice time slips or they can be downloaded from the webpage.

A total of 320 minutes is due every nine weeks. Students will turn in two “Practice Time Sheets” per nine weeks for a total of 320 minutes – that equals two 20 minute practice session per week.

Due dates for the practice logs are located on the bottom of the log



Concert Band continued

Benchmarks

Benchmarks are playing tests designed to help students learn new concepts as they progress through the class. We will be using the “SmartMusic” program as an assessment tool in the classroom.

Grading System

15%	Formative Assessments <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Daily work in class• Daily assessments conducted in class to form learning.• Other TBD
85%	Summative Assessments <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concerts• End of Unit tests• Playing tests – (SmartMusic Exams)• Other TBD

An average of assessments will be used to assign the final grade:

- A 90-100
- B 80-89
- C 70-79
- D 60-69
- F 59-

Open to: Grades 7 and 8

Prerequisite:

Course Length: One year

Class fee: No

Teacher approval: No

Required Course: No

Grading policy: Letter grade; see above



Creative Writing

Course Description and Goals

This course is an introductory elective course in writing. Students will practice writing daily in multiple genres. Favorite writing selections will be chosen to submit in final draft. The end of the course will result in a collective publication of the students' favorite works. The students will:

- Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences
- With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on how well purpose and audience have been addressed
- Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and present the relationships between information and ideas efficiently as well as to interact and collaborative with others

Supplies

- Paper and pencil
- Dedicate a section of a 3-ring binder to Creative Writing
- Enthusiasm and great ideas to write about

Evaluation and Grading

Students will be evaluated on their daily work and participation as formative assessments. Periodic quizzes, papers, and tests will have summative scores.

Open to: Grades 7 and 8

Prerequisite:

Course Length: Semester

Class fee: No

Teacher approval: No

Required Course: No

Grading policy: Letter grade



Drama

Course Description and Goals

This course is designed to offer theater techniques and performing opportunities. The primary focus of this class will be to study dramatic performance. Theater history and stage directions will also be elements in this class. Many different drama styles will be studied through the semester. This group will perform a play at the end of the semester. This class will focus on theater fundamentals and basic performing techniques.

Content

- Audience etiquette
- Teamwork
- Pantomime
- Improvisation
- Puppetry
- Voice control
- History of the theater
- Stage directions
- Writing scripts

Open to: Grades 7 and 8

Prerequisite:

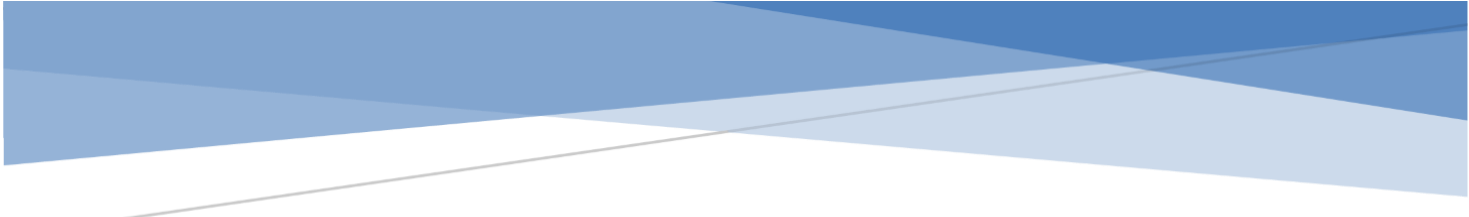
Course Length: Semester

Class fee: No

Teacher approval: No

Required Course: No

Grading policy: Letter grade



Multi-media

Course Description and Goals

This one semester computer class is designed for the middle school student to explore areas of technology and media. Each student will work with a partner to design/produce multimedia projects in the following areas:

- Multimedia presentations – theme-based PowerPoint
- Digital still camera – How to take better pictures/edit/print
- Video production
- Filming/Editing video
- Internet research
- HyperCard
- Digital still photograph editing
- Graphics/scanner

Open to: Grades 7 and 8

Prerequisite: Students are expected to adhere to a high level of accountability/maturity due to primary focus of this class. Students have access to expensive hardware, digital video/still camcorders/cameras, and irreplaceable equipment which requires students to meet a minimum level of competence/maturity.

- 3.0-4.0 GPA
- 3.0-4.0 GPA in 7th Grade Computers/Pass in 6th Grade Computer Exploratory
- Recommendation from 6th/7th grade team leader/staff
- Parent/Student performance/behavior form (see attached form)
- Internet discipline infractions are covered in the Internet Acceptable Use Policy.

Course Length: Semester

Class fee: No

Teacher approval: No

Required Course: No

Grading policy: Letter grade; Student assessment includes: portfolio, dynamic rubric, performance, criterion-referenced (state/national standards).



Science Projects

Course Description and Goals

Science Projects is a semester elective intended for students motivated to explore the scientific world. Students will participate in hands-on projects focusing on problem solving and creation. Quarter 1 investigates energy and electricity, and Quarter 2 concentrates on transportation and sound. Students will also complete their own project for a showcase at the end of the semester. Through the course, students will explore scientific innovations and engage with ways they can positively impact the field of science and our community.

Anticipated Course Projects

- MaKey MaKey
- Greenhouse plant growth
- Ecological footprint
- Recycling awareness
- Energy types
- Rollercoaster physics
- Solar homes
- Home blueprints
- Flashlight construction
- House wiring
- Hovercrafts
- Aluminum boats
- Bubble-ology
- Space balloons
- Harmonicas
- Speakers
- Project of your own choosing! (Science Showcase Project)



Science Projects continued

Supplies

- 1 binder with loose leaf paper
- Pen and pencil
- Calculator
- Appropriate clothing for outside lessons

Assessments

There will be a variety of formative and summative assessments. Evaluation is typically based on project reflections, participation, and effort.

Open to: Grades 7 and 8

Prerequisite:

Course Length: Semester

Class fee: No

Teacher approval: No

Required Course: No

Grading policy: Letter grade



Spanish Exploratory

Course Description and Goals

Spanish Exploratory is an introductory course in the Spanish language. Students will learn basic conversational Spanish and survival vocabulary. We will learn where the 21 Spanish speaking countries are in the world and what their capitals are. Students will conduct some basic research in the culture of the countries and plan a celebration at the end of the semester.

Goals to be covered:

- Read, write, speak, and listen to basic Spanish phrases and vocabulary
- Name the 21 Spanish speaking countries and locate them on the world map
- Demonstrate basic understanding of how people in Spanish speaking countries celebrate life events
- Gain an appreciation of understanding a second language

Supplies needed:

- Paper and pencil
- Composition book
- Dedicate a section of student 3-ring binder to Spanish Exploratory
- Enthusiasm to learn a new language

Open to: Grades 7 and 8

Prerequisite:


Course Length: Semester

Class fee: No

Teacher approval: No

Required Course: No

Grading policy: Letter grade



Student Aide: Office, P.E., Library, Classroom

Course Description and Goals

Student Aide positions are available for 8th grade students in the office, P.E. classes, some classrooms, and the library. There is an emphasis on confidentiality, responsibility, and communication skills.

Open to: Grade 8

Prerequisite: No F's in classes during the previous year. In some cases an exception may be made for students repeating the entire grade.

Course Length: Semester

Class fee: No

Teacher approval: Yes

Required Course: No

Grading policy: Pass/Fail, is not included in student's GPA