

# Bak Middle School of the Arts Course Descriptions For 2020/2021

## 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Art Major Class and Elective Selections



### Communications

#### Media Courses

***Bak MSOA Today/TV Production II*** – 8<sup>th</sup> grade, year

**An application process must be followed to be admitted to this course.**

This class will produce the daily live video news show for the school. Focus will be placed on the production of a news program and the technical execution of the live show. Students will demonstrate professional techniques of TV studio work through rotating assignments on the studio crew including producer, scriptwriter, feature and news reporter, director, camera operator, switcher, graphics teleprompter, audio, and floor manager. Students must have a strong sense of self-direction and be able to work well under strict deadlines and in a team environment. Prerequisite: TV Production I and Electronic News Gathering

***Advanced Video Production*** – 8<sup>th</sup> grade, semester

Video Production II in grade 7 is a pre-requisite for this course. Students will develop more advanced techniques in script writing, storyboarding, studio production, videography, and editing. Students will develop their ability to present information and stories through a growing appreciation of cinematography. In addition, students will work with advanced production equipment and increase their knowledge with editing software. Students will be given challenging real-world projects and assignments typical of the video field.

***Marketing Communications*** - 8<sup>th</sup> grade, semester elective

This class will provide an overview of the marketing mix with emphasis on the promotion component. Students will learn to think strategically and to understand the basic tools and processes used to reach and communicate with various publics. A functional approach will be used to allow students to apply writing, graphic design, and video production skills for a wide range of communication products and events.

***Advanced Graphic Design & Publication*** – 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade, year

This course is open to Communications, Visual Arts majors and other majors that have had a Computer Graphics class. It will offer students experience in creating graphics for use in publication and digital formats. Students will learn how to use Adobe Illustrator (primarily) and Adobe Photoshop. Illustrator is used for both fine art and graphic applications like book covers, infographics, icons, app logo designs, cartoons, etc. (Other programs will be introduced.)

***Adv. Radio Production*** – 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade, year

Students will learn the basics of radio production. Using Audacity, which is an audio program, students will create radio segments producing music, sound effects, and more. Segments will air on WBAK Radio 1500.

***Photoshop/Digital Media*** – 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade, semester

This course provides a thorough overview of the interface, the tools, the features, tricks, and tips for using Photoshop. The course is an ideal combination of instructor-led demonstration and hands-on practice. The class will focus on "real-world" applications such as magazine cover designs, print ads, logos, menu designs, and enhancing and manipulating images.

***Electronic News Gathering*** – 7<sup>th</sup> grade, semester

This television journalism course will focus on writing, reporting, shooting and editing news, feature and sport stories for the daily video announcements show. Using broadcast industry standards, and Associated Press writing styles, students will learn how to build reporter stories for the Bak MSOA Today Show. Students will learn standard news techniques and develop an awareness of journalistic style and specific techniques in writing for the spoken word. Students will provide a real service to the school since their work will be broadcast on the campus television newscast. People will be counting on you to provide the news! **This course is a Pre-Requisite to apply for Bak MSOA Today in grade 8.**

***TV Production*** – 7<sup>th</sup> grade, semester

Students will learn basic theory, techniques, and procedures of television production and receive practical working knowledge of the school's studio and control room equipment including camera, switcher, character generator, prompter, audio console and lighting. Following study of studio procedures, students plan, write, produce and direct TV studio productions. **This course is a Pre-Requisite to apply for Bak MSOA Today in grade 8.**

***Video Production*** – 7<sup>th</sup> grade, semester

This course takes basic techniques learned in Introduction of Video Production and expands on the phases of production to create video projects. Technical focus will be on advanced camera techniques and digital editing. Content includes producing, scripting, storyboarding, scheduling, directing, and editing video shorts. The course expands fundamental technical and production competencies in a number of complimentary areas while encouraging students to develop and explore their individual creative interest. Students are the sole producers of video products and should possess a strong sense of self-direction. **This course is a Pre-Requisite for Advanced Video Production in grade 8.**

**Speech Classes**

***Communication majors are required to take Speech and Debate in 7th grade.***

***Speech and Debate*** 7th grade, semester

This is an introductory course in competitive speech and debate, which will include, but is not limited to Humorous, Dramatic, & Oral Interpretation, Student Congress, Public-Forum Debate, Original Oratory, and Impromptu Speaking. Students will learn rules governing forensic (speech and debate) competition.

***Advanced Speech*** – 8th grade, year

**Teacher approval is required to be admitted to this course.**

Students will be taught to prepare for competitive events in speech, interpretation and debate which will include but is not limited to Humorous, Dramatic, & Oral Interpretation, Original Oratory, Student Congress and Public Forum. Students will learn rules governing forensic (speech and debate) competition. As members of the school's Speech & Debate Club, this class will involve attending club meetings and requires participation in at least one afterschool competition every 9 weeks.

***Speech and Debate Team officers are required to take Advanced Speech and Debate.***

***Students who are interested in joining the Speech and Debate Team are required to sign up for a Speech and Debate elective class.***

***Mock Trial*** semester long elective, grades 7 & 8

This semester long course is designed to introduce students to the use of legal reasoning and argumentation in the context of trial proceedings. Students will develop skills in formulating, presenting, and critiquing legal arguments. Initially, we will explore the theory behind the legal system, and how the rules of logic and reasoning govern the application of the law to the facts. Throughout the semester, we will achieve these goals through the lens of preparing to conduct a mock trial of a fictional case. A mock trial is an exercise where students, playing the roles of attorneys and witnesses for either the plaintiff/prosecution and defense, engage in a trial of a fictional civil or criminal case. To prepare for a mock trial, students will learn the techniques used to conduct trials, including opening statements, direct examinations, cross examinations, closing arguments, and objections. This elective is open to all majors but priority will be given to those in Communications.

## Writing Courses

### **Advanced Creative Writing**, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade, semester

Creative Writing class is a semester class that provides student writers an outlet for self-expression through imaginative writing in poetry and fiction, while teaching the importance of daily writing and revision, ensuring the proper use of technique and form, and helping each student develop an individual writing style. Further, the program provides a critical audience and imposes the discipline of meeting assignment deadlines like those encountered by professionals. Students learn that becoming a professional writer requires far more than writing for oneself. This course includes opportunities for submissions to other publications and to the school literary magazine which will host student prose, poetry, art, critical reviews and photography.

### **Introduction to Journalism** - 7<sup>th</sup> grade, year

*Prerequisite for Newspaper in grade 8 (Yearbook staff is also selected from this class.)*

The objective of this class is for students to master basic elements of journalism. At the conclusion of the course, students will have the necessary understanding of journalism laws/ethics, censorship, layout and design concepts, typography, reporting and writing for a newspaper to help you obtain a position on the school newspaper or yearbook staff. The Portfolio Newspaper staff is selected exclusively from this class and although not required, yearbook staffers are selected from this course as well.

### **Newspaper** – 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade, year

An application process must be followed to be admitted to this course.

Introduction to Journalism is a prerequisite for this course.

This journalism class is an advanced production class that is responsible for publishing the eight page school newspaper, *The Portfolio*, six times a year. There will be detail added to different styles of news writing, feature writing, sports and editorial writing. Emphasis will also be placed on layout and design, electronic journalism, photography and copy editing.

### **Yearbook** – 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade, year

An application process must be followed to be admitted to this course.

The performance objective of this course is the compilation of the MSOA yearbook. Students will be taught the basics of layout and presentation. They will develop the idea and the concept of the yearbook for the coming year. They will also learn the publishing aspects of a yearbook and the budget decisions that must be made. Public relations and marketing will be taught during the second semester. The literary and arts magazine is also published through this class.

## Dance

### **Ballet and Modern**

This is a mandatory course for all Dance majors. Two periods of dance are required for all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade dance majors. They will include Ballet, Modern and Jazz technique classes with exposure to a variety of ethnic dance forms, dance history, and movement analysis. Students will be placed in levels according to experience and ability. 1 year.

### **Dance Repertory**- year long elective, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade

Prerequisite: Intermediate and advanced levels, dance majors only by audition. This elective will be another dance class. Repertory 1 meets one period (usually Period 8) and Repertory 2 meets two periods (Periods 7 and 8). Students will work on ballet and modern repertory, pointe, partnering, and choreographing. They may also be invited to perform in the community, but, the emphasis is on learning how to approach new styles and how to work in a rehearsal setting. Students should be available for performances. 1 year.

### **Multi-Cultural Dance**- semester long elective, all grade levels

Offered to students throughout the school, the purpose of this course is to provide the student with an ongoing exposure to dance from a multi-cultural perspective. Instruction in dance forms such as Latin, West African, Caribbean, as well as ballet, modern and jazz, will be led by artists in residence and guest artists. Students will be required to follow the dance dress code and to respect the discipline of the art of dance. The class may be taken both semesters with permission and if there is room.

**Tap** - semester long elective, all grades

**Beginning Tap** - Offered to all majors and recommended for individuals who have never tap danced before or for a long time, this class will teach basic tap vocabulary, rhythms, style and execution. No previous experience necessary but tap shoes are required. Great class for anyone interested in musical theatre.

**Intermediate/Advanced Tap** – Offered to all majors, this class will review all basic tap steps as well as introduce advanced steps and combinations. This class is for experienced tap dancers only. Tap shoes are required.

## **Band**

### ***Intermediate Band , (Brass, Percussion, and Woodwinds)***

Prerequisite: demonstrated proficiency and/or teacher recommendation. Students will be expected to furnish a suitable instrument for class. The content includes refinement of music reading and rhythmic execution, and the development of consistent performance techniques. Intermediate Band performs on some school concerts when the band has demonstrated performance readiness. 1 year.

### ***Concert Band***

Prerequisite: demonstrated proficiency and/or teacher recommendation. Students will be expected to furnish a suitable instrument for class. The content includes further refinement of reading music notation and rhythms, development of consistent performance techniques, and scale studies/patterns. Concert Band performs at 3 school concerts yearly and Florida Band Masters Association Music Performance Assessment. 1 year.

### ***Advanced Band***

Prerequisite: demonstrated proficiency of the most advanced level and/or teacher recommendation. Instrumentation is considered in the selection of students. Students will be expected to furnish a suitable instrument for class. This band will enter the Florida Band Master Association Music Performance Assessment and other festivals. Students must maintain a 2.0 GPA to perform with the band. The content includes interpreting difficult music, developing independent musicianship, and tone production and performance techniques. *Special note: This is a performance oriented course and may require extra rehearsals and performances as announced by the teacher. Practice outside of class is expected. Private lessons are highly encouraged.* 1 year

### ***Jazz Band I and II***- year long electives, all grade levels

By audition only. Instrumentation is considered in the selection of students. Students will be expected to furnish a suitable instrument for class. Limited to 25 students for each section. This band will enter FBA and other festivals. Students must maintain a 2.0 GPA to perform with the band. *Special note: This is a performance oriented course and may require extra rehearsals and performances as announced by the teacher. Practice outside of class is expected. Private lessons are highly encouraged.* 1 year.

### ***Instrumental Ensemble*** – year long elective , grades 7 and 8

Prerequisite: demonstrated proficiency and/or teacher recommendation. The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop basic skills on a selected instrument in an individual or small ensemble setting using varied literature. Performance techniques and the development of music knowledge are central to this course. 1 year.

## **Strings**

### ***Intermediate I Strings***

Beginning Strings Prerequisite: acceptance into the strings program at MSOA. Students will be expected to furnish a suitable instrument for class. School instruments may be rented based on director's recommendation and availability. This course provides students with instruction in the development of technical skills on orchestral stringed instruments. Content includes development of fundamental skills in reading musical notation, music theory and fundamental techniques. 1 year.

### ***Intermediate II Strings***

Prerequisite: demonstrated proficiency and/or teacher recommendation. This course provides students with instruction in the application of musicianship and technical skills through the study of varied string orchestra literature. Content includes interpreting medium level string music, ensemble performance skills, refining tone production, reading musical notation and aesthetic perceptions. Practice outside of class is expected and private lessons are encouraged. 1 year.

### ***Advanced Strings***

Prerequisite: demonstrated proficiency and teacher recommendation. This is a performance-oriented course and may require extra rehearsals and performances as announced by the teacher. Practice outside of class is expected and private lessons are encouraged. This group will enter FOA and other festivals. Students must maintain a 2.0 GPA to perform with this ensemble. The course develops independence in musicianship and performance of advanced string orchestra literature, tone production and performance techniques. 1 year.

### ***Chamber Ensemble***

Prerequisite: demonstrated proficiency and teacher recommendation.

This course will be available to any 8<sup>th</sup> grade string major who would like to play string quartets. If selected, some of these quartets will have the opportunity to perform outside of school for community events. 1 year

### ***Music Theory***

**Required yearlong elective for all 7<sup>th</sup> grade Strings majors.**

The purpose of this course is to provide the opportunity to study theoretical music principles in depth and apply them to creative activities. The content includes, but is not limited to, music theory fundamentals and related applications. 1 year

## **Vocal Music**

### ***Intermediate Girls Chorus***, grades 7 & 8

This is a performance-oriented course for Vocal majors and will require extra rehearsals and performances beyond the school day as announced by the director. This course provides students with experience and applications of vocal production techniques and part-singing. The content includes, but is not limited to, enabling students to individually refine skills in vocal tone production, part singing, choral performance techniques, and musical literacy and music appreciation. Students must maintain a 2.0 PGA to perform with the chorus at Music Performance Assessments (Solo, Ensemble and Choral Festivals.)1 year.

### ***Advanced Girls Chorus***, grade 7 & 8

This is a performance-oriented course for Vocal majors and will require extra rehearsals and performances beyond the school day as announced by the director. This course provides students with experience and applications of vocal production techniques and part-singing. The content includes, but is not limited to, enabling students to individually refine skills in vocal tone production, part singing, choral performance techniques, and musical literacy and music appreciation. Students must maintain a 2.0 PGA to perform with the chorus at Music Performance Assessments (Solo, Ensemble and Choral Festivals.)1 year.

### ***Boys' Chorus***, grades 7 and 8

This is a performance-oriented course for Vocal majors and will require extra rehearsals and performances beyond the school day as announced by the director. This course provides students with experience and applications of vocal production techniques and part-singing. The content includes, but is not limited to, enabling students to individually refine skills in vocal tone production, part singing, choral performance techniques, and musical literacy and music appreciation. Students must maintain a 2.0 PGA to perform with the chorus at Music Performance Assessments (Solo, Ensemble and Choral Festivals.)1 year.

### ***Music Theory***, (required yearlong elective for all 7<sup>th</sup> and some 8<sup>th</sup> grade Vocal majors)

This is a required course for *vocal majors* enrolled in Chorus II, III and Boy's Chorus. These courses provide students with experience and applications of intermediate (II) and advanced (III) levels of music theory. The content includes enabling students to individually refine aural skills, melodic and rhythmic recognition and performance, diction, composition and musical literacy. Students must maintain a 2.0 PGA to perform with the chorus at Music Performance Assessments (Solo, Ensemble and Choral Festivals.)1 year.

### ***MSOA Chorale***

This year long elective is open to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys and girls. Acceptance is through an audition process for both vocal majors and non-majors.

This is a performance oriented course and will require extra rehearsals and performances beyond the school day. The MSOA Chorale will be the vocal music ambassador for the school. They will sing a range of mixed voicing music styles. The course will provide students with experience and application of vocal production techniques and part-singing. The content includes enabling students to individually refine skills in vocal tone production, part-singing, choral performance techniques, and musical literacy and musical appreciation. Students must maintain a 2.0 PGA to perform with the chorus at Music Performance Assessments (Solo, Ensemble and Choral Festivals.)1 year.

### ***Boys Ensemble and Girls Ensemble (aka Bakapella and Belles)***

This year long elective is open to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys and girls. Acceptance is through an audition process for both vocal majors and non-majors. Each show choir will consist of 20 – 25 students with an interest in singing pop, show tunes and vocal jazz. Choreography will also be involved.

## **Piano/Keyboard**

### ***Piano – Intermediate 2***, grade 7/8

Prerequisite: demonstrated proficiency and/or teacher recommendation. This year long performance oriented course for piano majors provides keyboard majors with instruction in the development of musicianship and technical skills through the study of varied keyboard literature. Instruction is for students who are capable of independent interpretation of medium to difficult level keyboard music. Practice outside the class is expected.1 year.

### ***Piano – Advanced***, grade 7/8

Prerequisite: demonstrated proficiency and/or teacher recommendation. This is a performance oriented course for piano majors level VIII and above in the BAK curriculum. This performance oriented course provides keyboard majors with instruction in individual keyboard performance. The content includes instruction in performing more advanced solos and the study of varied styles and historical eras. Practice outside the class is expected. 1 year.

### ***Piano techniques for Keyboard Majors***, yearlong

Prerequisite: demonstrated proficiency and/or teacher recommendation. This is a performance oriented course for piano majors level VIII and above in the BAK curriculum and will require extra rehearsals and performances beyond the school day as announced by the piano director. This class will provide the skills for Keyboard majors to develop as collaborative musicians. Included but not limited to piano duos, trios, quartets, and piano concertos. Practice outside the class is expected.

### ***Keyboard for non-majors***, semester long elective, all grade levels

Open to students in all art areas. This course is designed to give students an opportunity to begin or continue their study of keyboard music and technique while in another major art area at MSOA.

## **Theatre**

### ***Theater Level II***, grade 7

This is a continuing preparation for theatrical production curriculum **for 7<sup>th</sup> grade theatre majors only**. Seventh graders in Level II Theatre will spend two periods in theatre, attending the same class on both odd and even days. Each quarter will provide a new experience for students as they rotate through each of the following area specialties:

- **Costume Design and Production** – This class will take you through the steps of how we examine characters and develop costumes for a play. Topics covered are character analysis, pre-production research, costume history, rendering, types of fabrics, sewing techniques and understanding basic patterning. The content may also include make-up for the stage, costume construction and run-crew assignments.
- **Musical Theatre Performance** - This class is an introduction to American Musical Theatre circa 1900 through 1964. Students will study music theory, ear training, rhythm perception, music history and vocal development. This is not a performance driven class, though content may include showcase performances based on music learned in class.

- **Stagecraft and Technical Theatre Production** – This class will explore the technical areas of live theater including operation of lighting equipment and its maintenance, scenic lighting theory, practical design application, installation of lighting equipment for live theatre production and operation of lighting control boards. Content may also include exploration of elements of sound and theatrical drafting.
- **Play Production** – This class will explore all aspects of producing a one act play from the perspective of the actor, in addition to continuing the study of acting for theatre. Course work includes creating a bio, audition techniques, script and character analysis, rehearsal etiquette, working with blocking, personal props and costume accessories. Extra rehearsal time and performances are required and will extend beyond the school day as announced by the director.

**Theatre Level III**, grade 8

**Eighth graders in Level III Theatre are required to spend two back to back periods in theatre.**

**8<sup>th</sup> grade theatre** is a performance oriented class for theatre majors only. To be cast in a show, students will be required to audition for all productions. Extra rehearsal time and performances are required and will extend beyond the school day as announced by the director or technical director. To be considered for a technical theatre leadership assignment, including lighting or sound operation, students are required to state intent to forego casting at the time of auditions. The content of the 8th grade course will include Level III technical theatre support, Level III acting analysis, costume design and construction, stage management, set construction and painting, lighting and sound instruction and operation, and house management and publicity skills. Students will be assigned to one of several 8th grade theater teachers during the production cycles. 2 semesters, periods 6 & 8.

**Intro to Theater** – semester long elective, 7<sup>th</sup> grade, Non-theater Majors only

In this comprehensive theatre course students will gain knowledge and experience as actors. Students will participate in a variety of acting exercises, theatre games and improvisations and apply what they learn to preparing and presenting monologues and scenes from plays. This course is open to students in all art areas in grades 6 and 7.

**Theater for non-majors**, semester long elective, 7th and 8th grade, Non-theater majors only

In this comprehensive theatre course students will gain knowledge and experience as actors. The goal of this course is to develop acting skills and to present a one act play. This course is open to students in all art areas in grades 7 and 8.

**Musical Theater**, yearlong elective, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade

In this class, students will explore composers, lyricists, characters, musical style, and performance. Through in-class rehearsals and lectures, students will collectively develop a performance centered on a given topic, style, or composing team, and culminating in a mandatory public performance.

**Directing**, semester long elective, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade

In this course students will learn and practice the skills needed to be a director. Student directors will lead small groups of student actors in planning and executing performances, rehearse and collaborate within those small groups, as well as organize and run rehearsals independently. Each student will have the opportunity to direct their peers and to be directed by their peers in performance. Student directors will learn and practice applying research, providing analysis and relating information through their directorial and design choices.

There will be an in-school presentation of student directed scenes at the close of each semester.

**Beginning Sewing & Costuming**, semester long elective, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade

Students study costume by learning to sew by machine and by hand. Mask making and costume crafts may also be explored. This class consists of projects and requires some student provided materials.

**Advanced Sewing & Costuming**, semester long elective, 7th & 8th grade, must have teacher approval  
This class will explore more advanced sewing techniques, seam finishes and garment construction. Students who have taken the beginning Costume Elective or who can demonstrate an understanding of machine sewing techniques are encouraged to participate. This class mostly consists of projects and requires some student provided materials.

**Stagecraft**, semester long elective, 7th and 8th grade

This hands-on class will focus on the technical aspect of theatre. It includes constructing and rigging scenery, hanging and focusing of lighting, design and procurement of props, stage management, and recording and mixing of sound. This class is primarily the practical implementation of theatre productions at Bak. In its most basic form, stagecraft is an apprenticeship for carpenters, painters, electricians, stagehands, and the like. A signature is required.

## Visual Arts

**Drawing and Sculpture II (7<sup>th</sup>) and III (8<sup>th</sup>)** for visual arts majors only

This course includes one semester of 2/D art and one semester of 3/D art. For eighth grade students in Visual Arts studies III, a portfolio development emphasis will be followed for the first semester in both the areas of 2/D and 3/D. In the 2/D course students are provided with the experiences necessary for understanding, appreciating, and production of two-dimensional works of art. Experiences are provided in perception, description, and use of the compositional qualities and subject matter of two-dimensional works of art. In the 3/D course, students are provided with the experiences necessary for understanding, appreciating and producing three-dimensional works of art. Perceiving and responding to basic design concepts in three-dimensional works of art is emphasized. 1 year.

**Painting** - semester long course **required of all 7<sup>th</sup> grade VA majors**

Prerequisite: visual arts majors only. This is an intermediate level class to continue basic skills and introduce the creation of form using color and design using color optical illusion. The assignments in this class are mainly teacher directed and include both tempera and acrylic.

**Printmaking** - semester long course **required of all 7<sup>th</sup> grade VA majors**

Prerequisite: visual arts majors only. This is an intermediate level printmaking course that will focus on more advanced printmaking techniques and processes. Some may include silk screen, etching, or various relief prints.

**Ceramics** - semester long course **required of all 8<sup>th</sup> grade VA majors**

Prerequisite: visual arts majors only. This is an intermediate ceramic course, which includes but is not limited to advanced hand building techniques, mold making, mixed media, wheel thrown objects and some glaze properties.

**Photography** - semester long course **required of all 8<sup>th</sup> grade VA majors.**

Prerequisite: visual arts majors only. The purpose of this course is to give students basic skills and understanding of photographic imagery. Included is the study of photography and production techniques, criteria and vocabulary for critically analyzing photographs, techniques for proper presentation of photographic works, and career possibilities.

**Note to all 8th grade VA majors: those who are planning to audition in Digital Media at Dreyfoos will need to be in photography first semester. Be sure to indicate that on your course selection sheet by circling YES.**

**Advanced Graphic Design & Publication** – 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade, year

This course is open to Communications, Visual Arts majors and other majors that have had a Computer Graphics class. It will offer students experience in creating graphics for use in publication and digital formats. Students will learn how to use Adobe Illustrator (primarily) and Adobe Photoshop. Illustrator is used for both fine art and graphic applications like book covers, infographics, icons, app logo designs, cartoons, etc. (Other programs will be introduced.)

**Advanced Printmaking** – Semester long elective for 8th grade VA majors

This is an advanced printmaking course for 8th graders who want to continue studying printmaking. The course will focus on advanced printmaking techniques and processes. Teacher recommendation & signature is required.

**Advanced Painting** – semester long elective for 8<sup>th</sup> grade VA majors

This is an advanced painting course for 8<sup>th</sup> graders who want to continue studying painting. The course will focus on advanced painting techniques and processes. Teachers recommendation & signature is required.

**Advanced Digital Media** – semester long elective for 8<sup>th</sup> grade VA majors

**This course is for students who are planning to audition in Digital Media at Dreyfoos.** This class will provide content that focuses on a basic understanding of the use of digital cameras, Adobe Photoshop on both Mac and PC platforms, storage media and file transfer, as well as basic video storytelling methods and editing. **There is a \$50 fee to cover costs involved** and the teacher's signature is required.

**Digital Arts Studio** – semester long elective, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grades

This course is for Visual majors only. It is designed to be an independent study class to explore various digital art media with the guidance of Ms. Chesler. Students will be expected to turn in a portfolio of finished pieces or two stop motion animations. Media choices are digital illustration, digital fashion design, stop motion animation, or digital comic design and character development. Signature from Ms. Chesler is required for this class.

**Art for Non Majors 1 & 2** - semester long elective, all grades

This course is open to all art area majors except Visual Arts. This course provides students with opportunities to develop a basic knowledge of the artistic expression of ideas through two and three-dimensional media. It offers students the opportunity to learn and apply various drawing techniques as well as exploration of ideas and production using varied and original ideas; the rearrangement and the uses of objects; and the development of an aesthetic criteria for making judgments about art. This course may be repeated.

**Visual Arts Study Hall** – semester long elective, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade

This course provides Visual Arts majors additional time to work on their art projects. Academic work may be done as well.

## World Language Electives

**Spanish 1** – 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade, year-long elective. Prerequisite: None, however, a signature of recommendation from a World Language or Language Arts teacher **and all As and Bs in your academic classes** is required for 7<sup>th</sup> graders wishing to take this course.

**Upon successful completion of this course 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will earn one high school credit in Spanish that will remain on their permanent record all through high school. The grade earned in this course will begin the high school GPA.**

This course introduces students to the target language and its culture, and develops communicative skills and cross-cultural understanding. The content includes, but is not limited to, beginning skills in listening and speaking with special attention to pronunciation. An introduction to reading and writing is included as well as the fundamentals of grammar and culture.

*Special note: This course is NOT intended for the native speaker. If you are entering 8<sup>th</sup> grade and Spanish is spoken in your home, please have Ms. Donnelly (rm. 2-102) sign your course selection sheet. You may be placed directly into Spanish 2 upon evaluation.*

**French 1** – 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade, year long elective Prerequisite: None, however, a signature of recommendation from a World Language or Language Arts teacher **and all As and Bs in your academic classes** is required for 7<sup>th</sup> graders wishing to take this course.

**Upon successful completion of this course 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will earn one high school credit in French that will remain on their permanent record all through high school. In addition, the grade earned in this course will begin the high school GPA.**

This course introduces students to the target language and its culture, and develops communicative skills and cross-cultural understanding. The content includes, but is not limited to, beginning skills in listening and speaking with special attention to pronunciation. An introduction to reading and writing is included as well as the fundamentals of grammar and culture.

**IMPORTANT NOTE: Students who took French 1 or Spanish 1 in 7<sup>th</sup> grade should plan to take French II or Spanish II (for high school credit) as one of their electives in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.**

**Spanish 2 OR French 2** – 8<sup>th</sup> grade only, year-long elective.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of 7<sup>th</sup> grade Spanish I OR French I OR demonstrated proficiency (written and oral test).

**Upon successful completion of Spanish 2 or French 2, 8<sup>th</sup> graders will earn one high school credit in Spanish or French that will remain on their permanent record all through high school. In addition, the grade earned in this course will continue the cumulative high school GPA.**

**Spanish 2 or French 2** reinforces the fundamental skills previously acquired by the students. Students will develop increased listening, speaking, reading and writing skills as well as cultural awareness. Reading and writing will receive emphasis while oral communication remains the primary objective.

## **General Electives**

**Intro to Graphic Design** - semester long elective, 7th grade

The content of this course includes, but is not limited to, the use of commercially available software programs like Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Google Docs, Google Email, Google Classroom, and Photoshop. Students will acquire basic knowledge that will help them improve their technology skills.

**Digital Media/Graphic Design** - semester long elective, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades

The content of this course includes basic understanding of devices for electronic production of graphic designs, including uses of computer graphics for advertising and fine art. Students will learn to prepare computer-produced visual elements and to use the computer as a new form for artistic experimentation.

**Advanced Graphic Design & Publication** – 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade, year-long elective

This course is open to Communications, Visual Arts majors and **other majors that have had a Computer Graphics class**. It will offer students experience in creating graphics for use in publication and digital formats. Students will learn how to use Adobe Illustrator (primarily) and Adobe Photoshop. Illustrator is used for both fine art and graphic applications like book covers, infographics, icons, app logo designs, cartoons, etc. (Other programs will be introduced.)

**Web and Software Development/Coding** – year long elective, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades

Interested in learning about or expanding your knowledge in coding? Students in this course will learn how to design, market, and code a functional website. Students will be using, developing, and manipulating coding in both technical and real-world applications. Students will also have the opportunity to earn the CIW Site Development Associate Industry Certification which will certify that the students have mastered basic coding, HTML 5, CSS, and JavaScript.

**Web and Graphic Design + Coding** – year long elective, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades

This class will primarily work on coding and graphic Design for web development. Students will learn the basics of computer code languages such as HTML, CSS, JavaScript, and possibly others. They will use this basic knowledge of various codes to begin creating websites, games, apps, and more. They will also use creative graphic design programs such as Adobe Photoshop, Flash, and Illustrator to enhance their website design skills. They will also use various websites to construct three dimensional designs. For serious devoted computer users only, signature required.

**Civic Action Project (CAP)** semester long elective, grade 7 & 8

Want to make an impact in your community, state, country, or the world? This course is a project-based program that provides opportunities for students to apply what they learn to real world issues that matter to them. Students will identify an issue or problem they are passionate about, connect it to public policy, and then take "civic actions" to try to impact their selected issue/problem. They will have guidance every step of the way as they research a topic related to school, community, national or global issues. This course is ideal for students interested in careers in politics, law, and communications or for those who want to make a difference in the world around them.

**Film Study** – semester long elective, grades 7 & 8

This course is intended for the student with a true interest in analyzing a representative sampling of films/directors from the advent of film through today. The purpose is to teach students how to think critically about what they see in film and to consider the filmmaking process and decisions made along the way. It also helps students place films in a historical context, using them as a springboard for conversations about social issues.

**America at War: A Military History of 20<sup>th</sup> Century United States** – semester long elective, grades 7 & 8

This course, taught by Mr. Battle, traces the development of American military traditions, institutions, thought, and experiences from 1898 through 1999. It covers five major 20<sup>th</sup> century conflicts: World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and Iraq. Students will learn not only the conflicts, but also how each of them are interrelated and how one war led to the next. They will spend time discussing things like technology, professionalism, administration, and military policy, and while this course is not EXCLUSIVELY a course in tactics and operations, it does aim to place significant battles in their larger strategic, political, social, and cultural contexts. Students will discuss a wide range of issues about which they will be expected to think and form their own opinions.

**Mock Trial** semester long elective, grades 7 & 8

This semester long course is designed to introduce students to the use of legal reasoning and argumentation in the context of trial proceedings. Students will develop skills in formulating, presenting, and critiquing legal arguments. Initially, we will explore the theory behind the legal system, and how the rules of logic and reasoning govern the application of the law to the facts. Throughout the semester, we will achieve these goals through the lens of preparing to conduct a mock trial of a fictional case. A mock trial is an exercise where students, playing the roles of attorneys and witnesses for either the plaintiff/prosecution and defense, engage in a trial of a fictional civil or criminal case. To prepare for a mock trial, students will learn the techniques used to conduct trials, including opening statements, direct examinations, cross examinations, closing arguments, and objections. This elective is open to all majors but priority will be given to those in Communications.

**World Mythology** – semester long elective, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade

Students will read myths from around the world. These myths will help students make connections between classical myths and the real world. Students will gain understanding of such things as why a car company might want to name their car the "titan" and will recognize the word "narcissistic" on the SAT.

**Robotics** – semester long elective, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades

This course aims to guide students in learning the basics of mechanical engineering, design, and computer programming, with an understanding of such concepts as:

Sturdy construction

Gear ratios

Gears

Motors, lamps and sensors

More importantly, the course aims for students to learn to think like engineers – to learn to break down complex problems into simpler, solvable blocks; to model and describe what they want something to do; to see failure as an

**essential** opportunity to learn rather than as a judgment upon their ability.

Center of gravity

Levers

Engineering teamwork

Programming structures – loops, forks, subroutines

**Physical Education courses** – 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade

The following PE courses are available as yearlong or semester electives: **Basketball, Volleyball and General PE.** Students will circle their choice of semester or year on their course selection sheet.

**Critical Thinking** – year long elective

This elective is designed to allow students additional time to get school assignments and homework completed.

Participation in this "study hall type" class is especially suited to those students who are involved in activities outside of the school day and have a very busy schedule. Note: If you do not have technology at home, you should choose study hall as one of your electives. Open to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Media Center Aide** - semester long elective, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade

Students who wish to work as an aide must have high integrity. This means always doing the right thing even when no one is looking. They must be willing to follow directions and carry a job through to its completion. The signature of Mr. Kossove or Mrs. Bejarano is required on the course selection sheet, as well as 3's and 4's in conduct, in order to be selected as an Aide. *Please note: this elective will not generate a grade on the report card.*

**Teacher Aide** - semester long elective, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade

A signature from a teacher is required on the course selection sheet to work as their aide. The tasks that a student will be asked to do will be determined by the teacher. These might include helping with paperwork, running off copies, and in some cases acting as a student mentor to a student in the classroom. Students who wish to work as a teacher aide must

have high integrity. This means always doing the right thing even when no one is looking. *Please note: this elective will not generate a grade on the report card.*

**There are also descriptions of additional electives listed under each art major section. These include:**

**Communications:**

Mock Trial  
Creative Writing

**Visual Arts:**

Art for non-majors  
Digital Media (approval required)

**Dance:**

Multicultural Dance  
Tap

**Music:**

Keyboard/Piano  
Chorale (audition required)  
Jazz Band (audition required)  
Girls & Boys Ensemble  
Full Orchestra

**Theater**

Stagecraft  
Sewing – Beginning & Advanced  
Intro to Comprehensive Theater  
Theater for non-majors  
Musical Theater (audition required)