

Crittenden Middle School
6th Grade Electives Catalog 2019-2020
All electives are subject to enrollment, demand, and funding

Academic Enrichment Electives (select two)

ART HISTORY

Eligible Grade Level(s): 6,7,8

Art History will provide an in-depth study of art history and basic art concepts. Students will examine a variety of aspects of art history including themes and purposes of art; styles of art; the elements of art; design principles; two-dimensional media; western and non-western art history. Students will also have a working knowledge of media. Students will create projects inspired by historical time periods ranging from prehistoric to postmodernism.

CODING THROUGH MATH

Eligible Grade Level(s): 6, 7, 8

Coding through Math is an introductory elective course designed to introduce coding alongside math content and to illustrate how coding and math can support each other and the many benefits that each can provide to the other. The course is designed such that students may code engaging math-centric programs without any prior coding knowledge, learning the basics of coding as they progress through the course.

CREATIVE WRITING

Eligible Grade Level(s): 6

Creative Writing explores different genres of writing as well as necessary elements needed to improve writing and composition skills. The course's intention is to inspire students to develop original pieces and ideas in order to become better readers, writers, and thinkers. Writing genres covered include autobiographies, storytelling, fairy tales and fables, fantasies, short stories, poetry, and journalism through participation in a monthly publication.

MARINE BIOLOGY

Eligible Grade Level(s): 6

This Marine Biology course is an introduction to key marine science concepts and ideas. It is intended to expose students to the marine organisms and ecosystems as well as the ecology/relationships between them. Students develop critical and creative problem-solving skills that will prepare them for future marine science courses. The topics will raise awareness of the physical, chemical and geological aspects of oceanography, marine biology, the coastal environment and what we need to do to preserve it.

SPANISH I- 6: INTRODUCTION TO SPANISH

Eligible Grade Level(s): 6

Students will learn vocabulary on a variety of subjects and will be able to read, write, and speak in the present tense. No prior Spanish skills are required. (50% of instructions are in Spanish)

SPANISH ADVANCED

Eligible Grade Level(s): 6,7,8

This course is designed to help students to practice and improve Spanish literacy. (Fluent Spanish Speakers and students entering from the dual immersion program at Mistral School are candidates for this class)

STEM 6-8

Eligible Grade Level(s): 6,7,8

The STEM 6-8 elective class offers an engaging way for students to learn how to combine problem solving skills and project based learning across the disciplines of science, math, engineering, and writing. Inquiry, collaboration and problem solving sit at the heart of all STEM investigations. STEM reinforces relevant math and science standards by giving students a platform to apply what they know to an inquiry, exploration, or a problem. STEM 6-8 promotes innovation, data analysis and exploration that develop students' Critical thinking, Communication,

STEM 6-8: SPANISH

Eligible Grade Level(s): 6,7,8

The STEM 6-8 elective class offers an engaging way for students to learn how to combine problem solving skills and project based learning across the disciplines of science, math, engineering, and writing. Inquiry, collaboration and problem solving sit at the heart of all STEM investigations. STEM reinforces relevant math and science standards by giving students a platform to apply what they know to an inquiry, exploration, or a problem. STEM 6-8 promotes innovation, data analysis and exploration that develop students' Critical thinking, Communication, **This course will be taught in Spanish.**

Electives (select two electives and three alternates)

ART 6

Eligible Grade Level(s): 6

This course will offer a variety of experiences creating visual art. Students will refine and expand their drawing, painting, and sculptural skills with an emphasis on personal expression, thematic development, and an introduction to the use of color. Design elements and principles will be used in 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional artwork. This class will also provide beginning level instruction in ceramic hand building. Students will use a variety of media: graphite, charcoal, ink, paper, paint, clay, etc.

BAND - BEGINNING BAND

Eligible Grade Level(s): 6, 7, 8

Do you want to learn to play a band instrument OR re-learn the instrument you are already playing? Join our band program! Students will learn basic techniques on a band instrument of their choice and perform in the group in our new auditorium. School-lent instruments are available to all students. Attendance at all evening performances is **mandatory** and graded. All students are responsible for finding their own transportation to every concert. Dates of performances will be posted at the beginning of the school year. *No audition necessary!*

BAND - INTERMEDIATE

Eligible Grade Level(s): 6, 7, 8

By audition only - contact Mrs. Rzepiela for details.

This band is open to students who have played a band instrument for more than one year **and** upon the approval of the elementary or middle school band director. Careful consideration will be taken if the incoming middle school student will be participating in the upcoming CSMA Summer Honors Program for Band. Student must be able to confidently perform the Concert B-flat Major Scale. This course continues to build on playing techniques previously learned in beginning band. Participants will study a variety of repertoire with an emphasis on theory and ensemble performance. They will perform at the Fall Demonstration, Winter Concert, and Spring Concert. There is a required concert uniform that students may purchase or borrow through the music department. Attendance at all performances is **mandatory** and graded. All students are responsible for finding their own transportation to every concert. Dates of performances will be posted at the beginning of the school year. Students should consider renting their own instrument as Crittenden has a limited number of school rentals available. For rental advice, please contact Mrs. Rzepiela. *Please contact Mrs. Rzepiela to set-up an audition time. (650) 903-6945 Ext. 2371 or Irzepiela@mvwsd.org*

ACOUSTIC GUITAR - BEGINNING

Eligible Grade Level(s): 6, 7, 8

This course is open to students who desire to learn how to read music notation and play acoustic guitar. This class requires daily practice at home. *Some* instruments are available to students through the school rental program, but it is highly recommended that students provide their own acoustic guitar. *If you are considering purchasing a guitar for the class, please contact Mrs. Miyata for a reputable list of guitar make/model to purchase from.* **ELECTRIC GUITARS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO BE USED FOR THIS COURSE.** This course will focus on music theory, instrumental techniques and exploration of several musical styles. This ensemble will have one **mandatory** evening concert performance in the Spring Trimester. Attendance of the performance is **mandatory** and graded. All students are responsible for finding their own transportation to the concert. Date of the performance will be posted at the beginning of the school year.

MUSICAL THEATER

Eligible Grade Level(s): 6, 7, 8

If you love to sing, act or dance, this is the class for you! No audition necessary. This group will focus on basic acting and singing

techniques plus incorporate some basic dance choreography into songs. Students will study and perform pantomimes, write and perform simple monologues, learn stage directions, how to prepare for an audition and sing and dance in choral pieces. The class will also perform two mini-musical plays per year. All students will be required to participate in our big annual after school musical as either a performing cast member OR a backstage crew member (backstage includes moving sets, operating the spotlights, managing props and doing makeup or hair. These students do not need to attend rehearsals until the final week of the show). The musical will start in September and end before Thanksgiving break in November. 7th and 8th graders will be invited to participate in the three day music trip to Los Angeles in February. Attendance at the two mini-play performances is **mandatory** and graded. All students are responsible for finding their own transportation to every local performance. Dates of performances will be posted at the beginning of the school year. ***Students who are not enrolled in this class will still be invited to audition and participate in the annual after school musical.***

ORCHESTRA - BEGINNING (Orchestra I)

Eligible Grade Level(s): 6, 7, 8

This course is open to any student who desires to learn a string instrument (violin, viola, cello, string bass) or needs to review playing technique on a previously learned string instrument. The class requires daily practice at home. This string class teaches students beginning instrumental technique, basic music theory and ensemble playing skills. Some instruments are available to students through the school rental program. This ensemble performs at the Fall Concert, Winter Concert, and Spring Concert. There is a required concert uniform that students may purchase through the music department. Attendance at all performances is **mandatory** and graded. All students are responsible for finding their own transportation to every concert. Dates of performances will be posted at the beginning of the school year. Students should consider renting their own instrument as Crittenden has a limited number of school rentals available. Contact Ms. Miyata for rental advice if needed.

ORCHESTRA - INTERMEDIATE (Orchestra II)

Eligible Grade Level(s): 6, 7, 8

By teacher recommendation and audition only - contact Mrs. Miyata for details

This course is open to students who have played a string instrument for more than one year **and** upon approval of the elementary or middle school string director by audition. Careful consideration will be taken if the incoming middle school student will be participating in the upcoming CSMA Summer Honors Program for Strings. Student must be able to confidently perform D Major scale with proper technique. This course continues to build on performance techniques previously learned in Beginning Orchestra. The ensemble studies a variety of repertoire with an emphasis on music theory and ensemble performance. Students will perform at the Fall Concert, Winter Concert, and Spring Concert as well as various school and community events. There is a required concert uniform that students may purchase or borrow through the music department. Attendance at all performances is **mandatory** and graded. All students are responsible for finding their own transportation to every concert. Dates of performances will be posted at the beginning of the school year. Students should consider renting their own instrument as Crittenden has a limited number of school rentals available. *Please contact Mrs. Miyata to set-up an audition time. (650) 903-6945 Ext. 2373 amiyata@mwwsd.org*

ORCHESTRA - ADVANCED (Orchestra III)

Eligible Grade Level(s): 6, 7, 8

By teacher recommendation and audition only - contact Mrs. Miyata for details

This course is open to students who have played a string instrument for more than two years **and** upon approval of the elementary or middle school strings director by audition. Careful consideration will be taken if the incoming student will be participating in the upcoming CSMA Summer Honors Program for Strings *and/or* is currently taking private lessons. This course continues to build on performance techniques previously learned in Intermediate Orchestra. The ensemble studies a challenging repertoire of music with an emphasis on music theory and ensemble performance. Students will perform at the Fall Demonstration, Winter Concert, and Spring Concert and a three day trip to Los Angeles. There is a required concert uniform that students may purchase or borrow through the music department. Attendance at all performances is **mandatory** and graded. All students are responsible for finding their own transportation to every local concert. Dates of performances will be posted at the beginning of the school year. Students should consider renting their own instrument as Crittenden has a limited number of school rentals available. *Please contact Mrs. Miyata to set-up an audition time. (650) 903-6945 Ext. 2373 or amiyata@mwwsd.org*

PANTHER CHORUS

Eligible Grade Level(s): 6,7,8

This chorus is for students who would enjoy singing and performing in a vocal group. The class will study a variety of choral music with a focus on music theory, sight-singing and group performance. Please note: This ensemble performs between four and six evening concerts per year and there is a performance outfit, which can be purchased or borrowed (at no cost) through the music department. Performances include the Fall Demonstration, Winter Concert, The California Music Educators Festival, and a Spring

Concert. Attendance at all performances is mandatory and graded. All students are responsible for finding their own transportation to every concert. Dates of performances will be posted at the beginning of the school year.

COMPUTER CODING

Eligible Grade Level(s): 6, 7, 8

Students will learn to design, build, and present computer programs; analyze and debug algorithms; collaborate using product design cycles; compare ways of representing data; code using variables, conditionals, loops, and events; understand object-oriented abstraction; and discuss the social impacts of computing.

ROBOTICS & ENGINEERING

Eligible Grade Level(s): 6, 7, 8

Students will be engaged in innovative, hands-on projects, using lego robotics education and structural engineering and will work in teams to plan, design, and build a robot which interacts with its environment. Students will program the robot to use sensors to solve a problem or complete a mission. Structural engineering projects will focus on designing, building and testing wood towers, bridges, and trebuchets.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SKILLS WHEEL (a wheel is a package of classes; one course per trimester)

Eligible Grade Level: 6

Students will take each of the following courses for one trimester:

- Study Skills: Students will learn organization, time management and study techniques.
- Technology Skills: Today's students must be able to effectively use technology to research, organize, create, and evaluate information. This course provides a foundation in the skills and concepts that define computer literacy in the twenty-first century. From the basics of keyboarding to Internet research techniques, document creation, and digital citizenship, students practice essential skills through hands-on projects.
- Wellness: This course will provide knowledge and practice of health enhancing behavior through an examination of nutrition, social and emotional health, decision making, safety and more.