

Graham Middle School

6th Grade Electives Catalog 2019-2020

All electives are subject to enrollment, demand, and funding

Academic Enrichment Electives (select two)

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, 7, 8

Creative Writing is fun, terrifying, exhilarating, nerve-wracking, bursting with emotions of all kinds, and, above all, a class. Trying to describe it is like describing the sky, way too much and way too little to say. Write anything your mind takes you to! Write about dragons, unicorns, evil hamsters, talking fruit, flying cars, or all of the above! In this workshop-style class we will write, share, edit, and discuss many creative forms of writing including poems, short stories, plays, and personal essays.

ELECTIVE WHEEL 1 - SCIENCE THROUGH A DIFFERENT LENS

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

- Applied Physics: Students work in groups to meet challenges based on different physics concepts. Come learn how to build bridges, roller coasters, paper airplanes, and a Rube Goldberg machine
- Biomes Through Art: Students use scientific illustration to learn about and create visual representations of Earth's biomes. Some biomes we will investigate are marine, rainforest, and desert.
- Design Thinking: Based upon Stanford D.School's design thinking method, students will create solutions for both global and local problems. Students will learn how to empathize with their peers, ideate designs, build and test prototypes, and communicate results. Projects can include and are not limited to building "earthquake proof" schools, solar ovens, water collection devices, and creating innovative solutions for the Graham community.

HUMANITIES WHEEL

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

Throughout the year students will practice a variety of 21st Century skills through the lens of Creative Writing, Mythology, and Debate. Skills include but are not limited to creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, problem solving, listening, speaking, and social skills.

JOURNALISM

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

This course teaches students how to design Graham's digitally created school yearbook. Students learn page design, some photography, caption writing and project management. The students also learn how to design and write a school magazine.

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)

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.

ART

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

This exploratory class welcomes students to discover their particular abilities, talents, and interests in the visual art. Students will have opportunities to learn basic skills and techniques to create art projects reflecting the elements and principles of art. Art projects include drawing, painting, color theory, portraits, abstract designs, two and three dimensional construction, and clay work.

BAND - BEGINNING BAND

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

This course is for any incoming 6th grade student who has experience playing an instrument. It is also be available to students from any grade with no experience contingent upon a consultation with the teacher. No Audition required.

CHAMBER STRINGS

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

Select Advanced Music A class for the highest level orchestra students. Students who study with a private teacher or who have four or more years of experience are recommended for this class. **Placement is dependent upon audition.**

BEGINNING GUITAR

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

A class for students who have had no prior experience with the guitar. Students will learn to read, write, compose, and perform melodies and harmonies of music in addition to learning proper guitar posture and technique to perform various genres of music.

GUITAR ADVANCED

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

Select Advanced Music A class for advanced guitar students who have already had one or more years experience playing guitar. Prerequisite skills include basic ensemble skills performing different melodies, harmonies, and parts together and the ability to read music. **Placement is dependent upon auditions.**

INTERMEDIATE TREBLE CHORUS

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

(unlimited number of singers in 6th, 7th, and 8th graders) **Select Advanced Music** This course is designed for singers who are ready for more of a challenge in choir. The Chorus consists of both boys and girls and will teach intermediate level music reading and aural skills. Students wanting to be part of this group need to be assessed for readiness. The repertoire is drawn from all styles and genres. 4-6 performances per year.

MUSICAL THEATER

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

This year-long elective will explore all eras of the genre of musical theater. Pantomime, Improvisation, and Scene Building will also be explored. Students will choose a song to work on in each era and be coached on best practices. Four times per year, these songs will be performed in a showcase. By the end of the year, students will have a portfolio of audition material to use when auditioning for local shows. We will also present a full-length musical.

ORCHESTRA - BEGINNING (Orchestra I)

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

An entry level class for students who have had limited musical background knowledge of reading music and no or experience playing a stringed instrument (violin, viola, cello or string bass).

ORCHESTRA - INTERMEDIATE (Orchestra II)

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

A class primarily for orchestra students to continue to develop their reading, playing, and music composition skills and playing technique. The class is designed for students who have had one year of experience playing a stringed instrument in elementary school in 5th grade.

TREBLE AND TENOR BASS CHOIR

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

This course is designed specifically for those who like to sing and/or want to learn to sing. The curriculum focuses on breathing, tone production, and the balance and coordination of the young voice. Beginning Music-reading and aural skills are emphasized. Students in all stages of voice maturation and experience are encouraged to join. Singers are split into two classes in order to give the best attention to the developing voice. Typically, Graham Chorus comprises a wide range of young singers who come together to express themselves musically, explore new repertoire, and perform with newfound friends. 4-6 performances per year.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SKILLS WHEEL

Eligible Grade Level: 6

- 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.

STEAM Wheel 1

Eligible Grade Level: 6

This wheel allows students to experience a variety of STEAM electives every trimester.

- Intro to PhotoJournalism and Design : Students will learn the basics of digital photography and publication design. Students will create and make contributions to an online zine/newsletter.
- STEM 6/ Intro to Design Thinking and Engineering : This class is an introduction to design thinking, and engineering. Students will learn the design process, what engineers do, basic circuits, prototyping, 3D printing and product improvement.
- Intro to Current Events through GMSTV: Students will learn the basics of digital videography and filmmaking. Students will create and make contributions to an online zine/newsletter and into GMSTV.

STEAM WHEEL 2

Eligible Grade Level: 6

This wheel allows students to experience a variety of STEAM electives every trimester.

- STEM 6/ Intro to Design Thinking and Engineering: This class is an introduction to design thinking, and engineering. Students will learn the design process, what engineers do, basic circuits, prototyping, 3D printing and product improvement.
- Intro to Leadership: Students develop individual and group leadership skills to impact their lives and their communities. Students will explore decision-making, goal setting, effective communication, service leadership, organization and time management skills.
- Intro to PhotoJournalism and Design: Students will learn the basics of digital photography and publication design. Students will create and make contributions to an online zine/newsletter.