

**Crittenden Middle School**  
**Grade 6 Electives Catalog**  
**2020-2021**

*All electives are subject to enrollment, demand, and funding*

**Select and rank 5 electives**

**(AE - Academic Elective / GE - General Elective)**

**ART HISTORY (AE)**

*Course # E1011*

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.

**ART 1 (GE)**

*Course # E1021*

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

Have you ever wanted to improve your art skills, use your imagination, or express yourself creatively through art? The art classes at Crittenden will offer a variety of experiences with creating different types of 2-D and 3-D Art. Students will learn about different art movements throughout history and learn how to create many types of art. Some types of projects that will be made this year are paper-mâché sculptures, collage, brush paintings, watercolor paintings, self-portraits, 3-D sculpture, paper making, pottery/ceramics, drawing superheroes, duct tape art, and much more. Everyone will improve their art skills while enjoying the company of new friends. This course can be repeated since different projects and skills will be taught in rotation.

**COMPUTER CODING (GE)**

*Course # E3005*

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.

**CODING THROUGH MATH (AE)**

*Course # E3012*

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 (AE)**

*Course # E9011*

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 (AE)**

*Course# E8013*

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

This multigrade class will focus on: an introduction to the properties/chemistry of water, basic animal zoology, ecosystems, and how humans use the ocean as a resource. Each grade level will be given an age-appropriate curriculum that supports their current science topic. Students should expect classes to include thoughtful interactions, reading and interpreting data, simulations online and in person, activities, labs, and presentations in small groups.

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

*Course # EW2001*

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.

## **MUSIC-BAND - BEGINNING BAND (GE)**

*Course # E2101*

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!*

## **MUSIC-BAND - INTERMEDIATE (GE)**

Course # E2102

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

**By audition only** - contact the Music Department 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 the Music Department. *Please contact the Music Department to set-up an audition time. (650) 903-6945 Ext. 2371*

## **MUSIC-ACOUSTIC GUITAR - BEGINNING (GE)**

Course # E2214

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.

## **MUSIC-MUSICAL THEATER (GE)**

Course # E2400

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.***

## **MUSIC-ORCHESTRA - BEGINNING (Orchestra I) (GE)**

Course # E2301

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.

## **MUSIC-ORCHESTRA - INTERMEDIATE (Orchestra II) (GE)**

Course # E2302

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. Students 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@mvwsd.org](mailto:amiyata@mvwsd.org)

## **MUSIC-ORCHESTRA - ADVANCED (Orchestra III) (GE)**

*Course # E2303*

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@mvwsd.org*

## **MUSIC-PANTHER CHORUS (GE)**

*Course # E2080*

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.

## **ROBOTICS & ENGINEERING (GE)**

*Course # E3003*

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.

## **SPANISH IA: INTRODUCTION TO SPANISH (AE)**

*Course # E5021*

Eligible Grade Levels: 6,7

Students will learn vocabulary on a variety of subjects and will be able to read, write, speak, and understand very basic Spanish in the present tense. No prior Spanish skills are required. This year of Spanish meets the requirements of the first half of high school Spanish 1.

## **SPANISH IB: APPLICATIONS OF SPANISH (AE)**

*Course # E5022*

Eligible Grade Levels: 6\*,7,8 \*Recommended only for 6th graders who are somewhat proficient in Spanish. This course is the continuation of Spanish 1A. This course is recommended for students who maintained a C or better in Spanish 1A. Students must have completed at least one year of formal instruction in Spanish or must have some proficiency. Students will build on reading, writing, speaking, and understanding in the present tense, and will learn the simple past tense. This year of Spanish meets the requirements of the second half of high school Spanish 1.

## **SPANISH ADVANCED (AE)**

*Course # E5023*

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

This course is designed to help students strengthen Spanish literacy. This course is recommended only for students who are at or near a fluent level in speaking, reading, and writing in Spanish. This course is conducted 100% in Spanish, and students will read novels and write brief essays in Spanish. Students need to have maintained a C or better in their previous Spanish class (if applicable).

## **STEM 6-8 (AE)**

*Course # E8014*

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 creativity, and collaboration skills.

## **STEM 6-8: SPANISH (AE)**

*Course # E8015*

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, Creativity, and Collaboration skills. **This course will be taught in Spanish.**