

Crittenden Middle School
Grade 7 & 8 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 Number: 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.

ART 2 (GE)

Course # E1022

Eligible Grade Level(s): 7 & 8 Students who have completed ART 1 are eligible.

This course is an advanced exploration of developing technical artistic skills and visual literacy. Students will have opportunities to build mastery in various techniques to create art projects as well as reflect, critique and connect personal experiences to art. Art projects include drawing, painting, animation, printmaking, curating, installations, two and three dimensional construction, and kiln fired clay work.

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.

COLLEGE BOUND (GE)

Course # E7001

Eligible Grade Level(s): 7, 8

Application required.

This course is based on an internationally recognized program (AVID) designed to prepare students for success in high school, colleges, and universities. Specifically, College Bound supports middle school students to enable them to enroll in college preparatory classes and the AVID elective in high school. The class is a mix of skills to prepare students for academic success as well as projects.

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.

COMPUTER MEDIA ARTS (GE)

Course # E3001

Eligible Grade Level(s): 7, 8

This class will incorporate theory and practice in the use of still and video photography. Students will learn project planning, video style, planning scenes and shots, camera use, effective lighting and audio, cut-aways and cut-ins, camera movement, use of still images, editing techniques, and presentation of a final product. Students may also incorporate their own talents in graphic design.

EXPLORATORY ENGLISH (AE)

Course # E5110

Eligible Grade Level: 7, 8

In this course, students will explore the creative and critical aspects of Language Arts. Units of exploration include: speeches, mock trial (productive, academic arguing!), a documentary film unit, product of the Crittenden Chronicle newspaper, and the Genius Hour project in which students spend every Friday exploring and pursuing a long-term project that is chosen by them and ignites their passion culminating with a final project exhibition in May.

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.

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-BAND - ADVANCED (GE)

Course # E2103

Eligible Grade Level(s): 7, 8

By teacher recommendation and audition only - contact the Music Department for details. This band is open to all 7th and 8th grade band students by audition only **and** upon the approval of the band director. This course continues building on playing techniques previously learned in Intermediate Band. Participants will study a variety of repertoire with an emphasis on ensemble performance. They will perform at the Fall Demonstration, Winter Concert, and Spring Concert as well as 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 local concerts. Dates of performances will be posted at the beginning of the school year. Students should consider renting their own instrument if possible, as there is a very limited supply at Crittenden. *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-GUITAR ENSEMBLE (Guitar II): (GE)

Course # E2202

Eligible Grade Level(s): 7, 8

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

Students must have completed Guitar 1 **and** have the approval of the middle school guitar teacher by audition. Students who have taken private lessons may audition for placement. Audition materials are available from the guitar teacher. This course continues to build on performance techniques previously learned in Guitar I. The ensemble studies a variety of repertoire with an emphasis on music theory and ensemble performance. Students perform at the Luau Fundraiser, Winter Concert, Spring Concert and the three day trip to Los Angeles. Attendance at all performances is mandatory and graded. All students are responsible for finding their own transportation to local concerts. Dates of performances will be posted at the beginning of the school year. *Please contact Mrs. Miyata to set-up an audition time. (650) 903-6945 Ext. 2373 amiyata@mvwsd.org*

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 year. 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). 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 local performances. 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 musical after school.***

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. *Please contact Mrs. Miyata to set-up an audition time. (650) 903-6945 Ext. 2373 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 string 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 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. If you need advice on renting an instrument, please contact Ms. Miyata. *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 for 7th,8th, or 6th graders who are fluent 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.

STUDY SKILLS (GE)

Course # E6001

Eligible Grade Level(s): 7, 8

This course will help students complete work and prepare for classes by learning time management, prioritization, organization, goal-setting and many more habits and skills necessary for success in middle school and beyond. Students who want to take this course should be committed to working hard and continually improving as a student.