

Graham 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 1 (GE)

Course # E1021

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 handbuilding with air dry clay.

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.

ART 3 (GE)

Course # E1023

Eligible Grade Level(s): 8 (only grade 8 students who have completed ART 1 and ART 2 are eligible.)

This course is designed for students who are passionate about art, show strong creative skills and wish to develop their artistic style to continue in high school. It is a rigorous advanced, exploratory course that allows students to choose a path of inquiry to influence their original art pieces. Students will further develop their artistic, research and communication skills while creating, presenting, responding, and connecting to art. Collaborative and independent work will be utilized to foster critical thinking, problem solving, self-regulation, metacognition and other valuable higher order thinking skills. Art projects include all mediums.

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

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.

CREATIVE WRITING (AE)

Course # E9011

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.

CURRENT EVENTS THROUGH GMSTV (GE)

Course # E8501

Eligible Grade Level(s): 7, 8

This course is one in which students identify, research, analyze, and discuss current events from different points of views. The class covers the global context of issues, as well as their importance in education and our community. Students study different topics to make connections from past to present. The students will create videos, photographic and audio projects related to current events and local issues. Many of their videos will be presented to the student body. A \$25.00-\$50.00 donation is requested from each student to cover the cost of the materials used in class.

DRAMA IN LITERACY (AE)

Course # E5111

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

Drama will explore literacy and history while covering some core components of theater: acting, directing, and playwriting. As a year long course for all grades, students will learn about the history and range of theater by studying different types, including: ancient Greek theater, commedia dell'arte, and past and current comedies, melodramas and musicals. Also, students will examine character development by practicing improv, reading and performing scripts, and creating character profiles. Students will also practice their writing skills by developing their own scenes and one act plays. Even though the course has a strong foundation in the performing arts, it will also enhance other skills such as reading, writing, inferencing and public speaking.

ELECTIVE WHEEL - SCIENCE THROUGH A DIFFERENT LENS (AE)

Course # EW3001

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 (AE)

Course # EW1002

Eligible Grade Level(s): 7, 8

- History Through Art: This course will challenge students to observe, research, discuss and create art and projects based on topics in World and US History. Students will use a variety of mediums to create projects that enhance their understanding of historical topics. History will come alive, and far-away cultures will come close as students conceptualize history through period-correlated artifacts, art, architecture, and visuals.
- Ethnic Studies: This course will provide students with cultural knowledge and identity, through different media lens, such as art, literature, music and videos. It will focus on the experiences of African Americans, Asian Americans, Latino Americans, Native Americans, and other marginalized peoples in the US. The purpose of this course is to educate students to be politically, socially, and economically conscious. Themes of social justice, social responsibility, and social change will be heavily emphasized.
- Life Skills: This course will teach students basic economic and life planning skills. Students will learn beginning economic concepts such as budgeting and financial planning. Other life skill concepts such as high school graduation requirements, college and career planning, job applications, and interview techniques will be taught.

JOURNALISM (AE)

Course # E9012

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.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SKILLS WHEEL (GE)

Course # EW2001

Eligible Grade Level: 6, 7

- **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

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

MUSIC-BEGINNING GUITAR (GE)

Course #E2201

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

This is 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.

MUSIC-GUITAR ADVANCED (GE)

Course # E2203

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

This is 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.

MUSIC-INTERMEDIATE TREBLE CHORUS (GE)

Course #E2072

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

This class is open to an unlimited number of singers in grades 6, 7, and 8, and 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. Students will participate in 4-6 Performances per year.

MUSIC-JAZZ BAND (GE)

Course # E2114

Eligible Grade Level(s): 7, 8

Supplementary class for any 7th or 8th-grade student who plays the following instruments: Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Guitar, Bass Guitar, Piano, or Drum Set. Audition required.

MUSIC-MUSICAL THEATER (GE)

Course # E2400

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

This year-long elective class will explore Pantomime, Storytelling, and Scene Building. Singing and Dancing are both requirements of this class. A showcase will be presented once per trimester. Students will be coached on best practices for singing, acting, and choreography.

MUSIC-ORCHESTRA I - BEGINNING (GE)

Course # E2301

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

This is an entry level class for students who have had limited musical background knowledge of reading music and little to no experience playing a stringed instrument such as the violin, viola, cello or string bass.

MUSIC-ORCHESTRA II - INTERMEDIATE (GE)

Course # E2302

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

This is 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 grade 5, have been previously in orchestra, or have had private lessons.

MUSIC-ORCHESTRA SELECT (GE)

Course # E2303

Eligible Grade Level(s): 7, 8

This is an advanced music class for students who have had orchestral experience of two or more years, and have played in grades 5 and 6. Students will continue to work on higher level music reading, composition, improvisation, and technical performance skills. Audition required.

MUSIC-SYMPHONIC BAND (GE)

Course # E2115

Eligible Grade Level(s): 7, 8

This class is for any grade 7 or 8 student who has played an instrument before. No Audition required.

MUSIC-TENOR AND BASS CHOIR (GE)

Course # E2083

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

This course is specifically designed for those who like to sing and, or want to learn to sing. The plan focuses on breathing, tone production, and the balance and coordination of the young voice. It focuses on music reading for beginners and acoustic skills. Students who are in all stages of voice maturation and

experience are invited to join. The singers are divided into two classes in order to give the best attention to the developing voice. Graham's chorus typically encompasses a wide variety of young singers who come together to express themselves musically, explore a new repertoire, and perform with new friends. Students will participate in 4-6 Performances per year.

MUSIC-VOCAL ENSEMBLE (GE)

Course # E2081

Eligible Grade Level(s): 7, 8

This advanced choral ensemble is designed for experienced singers who are dedicated to the choral art and possess some sight-singing skills. The ensemble consists of both boys and girls and encourages, equally, the unchanged, the changed, and the changing voice. The repertoire is drawn from a cappella as well as accompanied styles of all genres. Vocal Ensemble represents the school in the community. Participation is through audition Only. Students will participate in 8-10 Performances per 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. Teams will 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 Level(s): 6,7,8

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 will be in Spanish)

SPANISH IB: APPLICATIONS OF SPANISH (AE)

Course # E5022

Eligible Grade Level(s): 7, 8

This is the continuation of Spanish IA. This course is taught entirely in Spanish. Students must have completed at least one year of formal instruction in Spanish or must be native Spanish speakers who are conversationally fluent. Graduates of the dual immersion program at Mistral are good candidates for this class.

SPANISH ADVANCED (AE)

Course # E5023

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

This class is for fluent Spanish speakers and is designed to help students practice and improve their Spanish literacy.

STEM (AE)

Course # E8016

Eligible Grade Level(s): 7, 8

The STEM elective class offers an innovative 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 promotes innovation, research and exploration that develop students' Critical thinking, Communication, Collaboration, and Creativity. The course focuses on NGSS aligned lessons in Environmental Engineering, Bioengineering with robotics, environmental sustainability and manufacturing. STEM reinforces relevant math and science standards by giving students a platform to apply what they know to an inquiry, exploration, or a problem.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP / GOVERNMENT (GE)

Course # E7003

Eligible Grade Level(s): 7, 8

Students help with organizing student events and assemblies. This course focuses on building student leadership skills. They are also required to perform community service.

STUDY SKILLS (GE)

Course # E6001

Eligible Grade Level(s): 7, 8

This course will help students complete their 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.