

Graham 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 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.

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, 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.

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.

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

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

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-MUSICAL THEATER (GE)

Course # E2400

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

This year-long elective 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 - BEGINNING (Orchestra I) (GE)

Course # E2301

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 experience playing a stringed instrument (violin, viola, cello or string bass).

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

Course # E2302

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.

MUSIC- 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. Students in every grade level are encouraged to join. The curriculum focuses on beginning music reading (sight singing) and musicianship skills, as well as improving singing technique. Typically, Treble and Tenor Bass Choir comprises a wide range of young singers who come together to express themselves musically, sing varied repertoire, and perform with newfound friends. 4-6 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 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 ADVANCED (AE)

Course # E5023

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)

STEAM WHEEL (GE)

Course # EW4001

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 magazine/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 magazine/newsletter and into GMSTV.