

# Graham Middle School

## 7th & 8th 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: INTRODUCTION TO SPANISH

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 are in Spanish)

#### SPANISH II: APPLICATIONS OF SPANISH

Eligible Grade Level(s): 7,8

This is the continuation of Spanish I. 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 candidates for this class.

## SPANISH ADVANCED

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

This course is designed to help students to practice and improve Spanish literacy. (For Fluent Speakers)

## **Electives (select two electives and three alternates)**

### 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.

### ART ADVANCED

Eligible Grade Level(s): 7, 8

This class is designed for students who are passionate about art, who show strong creative skills and wish to develop their artistic style to continue in high school. Students will experience digital/multimedia art with computer applications, math applications, learning through the masters, clay work, and sculpture in addition to use the elements and principles of art in two and three-dimensional art forms began in Art Exploration. This class may be taken twice, open to 7th and 8th graders. Prerequisites: portfolio of artwork and art teacher's signature.

### 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 available to students from any grade with no experience contingent upon a consultation with the teacher. No Audition required.

### JAZZ BAND

Eligible Grade Level(s): 7, 8

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

### SYMPHONIC BAND

Eligible Grade Level(s): 7, 8

For any 7th or 8th grade student who has played an instrument before. 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.

### ORCHESTRA SELECT

Eligible Grade Level(s): 7, 8

Advanced Music A class for students who have had orchestral experience of two or more years (played in 5th and 6th grade). Students will continue to work on higher level music reading, composition, improvisation, and technical performance skills. Placement is also dependent upon audition.

### 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.

### VOCAL ENSEMBLE

Eligible Grade Level(s): 7, 8

Select Advanced Music 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. Audition Only. 8-10 Performances per

### COLLEGE BOUND

Eligible Grade Level(s): 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.

### CURRENT EVENTS THROUGH GMSTV

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 course 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 a video, photographic and audio projects related to the 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.

## ROBOTICS & ENGINEERING

Eligible Grade Level(s): 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.

## STEM 7

Eligible Grade Level(s): 7

The STEM 7 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 7 promotes innovation, research and exploration that develop students' Critical thinking, Communication, Collaboration, and Creativity. The STEM 7 course focuses on NGSS aligned lessons in Environmental Engineering, Bioengineering with robotics, environmental sustainability and manufacturing.

## STEM 8

Eligible Grade Level(s): 8

The STEM 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 8 promotes innovation, data analysis and exploration that develop students' Critical thinking, Communication,

## STUDENTS LEADERSHIP/GOVERNMENT

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

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.