

**WMAAA ELECTIVE
COURSE DESCRIPTIONS
2017/2018**

DANCE

Classical Dance: This class will combine the classical techniques of both ballet and tap dance: Students will learn the basic principles of classical ballet. Proper body placement, turnout and terminology are emphasized. Students of Ballet will learn barre, center, and across the floor exercises. The tap portion of Classical Dance focuses on the classical and musical theater style of tap dance. The history of tap will also be a part of this class. Musicality and rhythm will be taught along with tap technique. Class format includes a rhythmic warm-up followed by various technical exercises, and finally a combination or small piece of choreography. Classical Dance students will participate in a performance.

Contemporary Dance: In this class, contemporary jazz and lyrical techniques are taught with an emphasis on proper body lines, extensions and quick movement sequences. Jazz is highly stylized and also incorporates musicality and rhythm. Lyrical class will incorporate the techniques of jazz, ballet, and modern dance, while focusing on the interpretation of the lyrics of contemporary music. Students will study the use of motivation of emotions and feelings to enhance performance. A performance opportunity will be a part of Contemporary Dance

Dance History: This is a 20th century American Dance history class. Students will demonstrate dance in the historical context of the decades of the 20th century. The emphasis will be on understanding the relationship between the culture in the United States at a given point in history and dance styles. Students of this class will competently perform social dances from a wide spectrum of decades throughout the century. Students will also be able to accurately describe the role of dance in the different decades. Music styles and prominent people will also be studied as well as the history of ballet, tap, jazz, and modern in the past century.

Choreography: For grades 6-8. Students will study the technique of creating dance and apply movement skills, dance elements, and choreographic concepts in creating dance. The use of improvisation and story framework will be introduced as well as other motivation topics for constructing movement. Students will also study the work of choreographers and the impact they have had on the world of dance. Students will work in small groups as well as on solo projects.

Dance 1 & 2: Students will study ballet, tap, and jazz dance, incorporating many different styles of each genre. Dance technique and beginning choreography skills will be covered in class, as well as applying learned dance vocabulary to the practice of dance skills. Students will learn the importance of proper warm-up and alignment and also learn the art of creating dances and performing. This class will participate in a performance.

Choices in Health: Students will study health topics that meet the criteria for Michigan Health standards. This class will be a hands-on interactive approach to learning all aspects of health as well as the tools for making good choices. Students will study how health is affected by different influences (including peers and the media) and how to access information to make good

choices for their personal health. The class will cover the following topics: alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, character education and mental health, safety and violence, nutrition, physical activity and personal health and wellness.

Repertory: Students in this class will learn to develop skills in creatively and technically working under the direction of the teacher in performing choreographed works. They will practice working well with others to achieve an aesthetic quality and commitment to fulfilling a dance project. They will learn to quickly and correctly execute dance steps in a dance and practice dancing in unison with others. The art of performance will also be focused on as well as the ability of the dancer to deliver the choreographer's intent to the audience. A performance opportunity will be a part of this class. Registering for this class requires prior approval of teacher.

Conditioning: This class will focus on the fundamentals of fitness in terms of flexibility, strength, and cardiovascular endurance. Students will be active in many different capacities such as running, weight lifting, yoga, circuit training, and aerobics. An emphasis will be on fun and getting exercise into a daily routine for each student. Physical fitness goals are discussed as well as what is motivating to reach those goals. Students must dress in appropriate exercise clothing. The middle school conditioning class will further develop students' understanding of fitness in their daily lives. Student will also participate in a 9-week running and walking program off-campus. Individual goals will be discussed in this class and students will demonstrate the ability to track their heart rate and learn the benefits of reaching one's target heart rate, as well as discuss nutritional needs while training.

MUSIC

Cantilena Chorale (5th - 6th grade choir): This is a singing group designed to develop the voices and the ears of the singers. Students will be learning music theory, sight singing and performance skills while practicing singing and blending in an ensemble. Performances throughout the year are a requirement of this class.

Bel Canto Singers (7th - 8th grade choir): This is a singing group designed to develop the voices and the ears of the singers. Students will continue learning music theory, sight-reading and performance skills while practicing singing and blending in an ensemble. Performances throughout the year, including solo and ensemble festival, are a requirement of this class.

Piano: This course offers students a chance to progress at their own level and pace. All students learn to play piano by playing electronic keyboards using headphones. Students are graded on participation, effort, theory assignments and recitals. The Alfred's Basic Piano Library Series is used and will be provided by the Academy.

Music History: Experience and learn about the history of music and find out how music fit into society and people's daily lives. This course will explore the time periods of music from the Middle Ages to the Contemporary. Students will study music and composers from each era through movies, listening lessons and writing projects. Students will also explore each era through their art form: vocal, piano or instrumental.

Beginning Band: Beginning Band is for students with little or no musical training on a chosen instrument. Note: Beginning Band Percussion students must have at least 1 year of piano/keyboard instruction within the last two (2) years. Piano audition is required. Beginning band students meet at first in “like instrument” groupings to better insure their success. After a few months, they will be able to play together as a collective band.

Intermediate Band: Intermediate band is open to students who have played at least one year on an instrument. Last year’s beginners will automatically qualify unless they have changed to a new instrument. The last session of intermediate band will include Jazz Band.

Advanced Band: Advanced band is open to students who have played at least two years on an instrument. This ensemble will perform full band pieces provided by the school in addition to scales and technical exercises. Students will be required to participate in “Solo and Ensemble” as well as evening concerts. Jazz Band will be incorporated into this class.

ART

Sculpture: Students will explore basic technical and expressive applications of sculpture in a variety of materials which may include: clay, paper, papier mache, wire, wood, plaster and found objects. Students will take inspiration from other artists and cultures, participate in class critiques and reflect on the creative process involved in creating each artwork.

Advanced Sculpture: Students will build upon what they have learned in sculpture exploring intermediate technical and expressive applications of sculpture in a variety of materials which may include: clay, paper, papier mache, wire, wood, plaster and found objects. Students will take inspiration from other artists and cultures, participate in class critiques and reflect on the creative process involved in creating each artwork.

Art History I: Students will study a variety of artworks while learning about the society, time period, and the culture in which they were created. Projects will be hands on, group oriented and include written components. This course briefly covers the art from the Stone Age to the Renaissance from around the world. Students will complete one project inspired by an artist, idea or historical event associated with each major art movement from this time period.

Art History II: Students will study a variety of artworks while learning about the society, time period and culture, in which they were created. Projects will be hands on, group oriented and include written components. This course briefly covers the art of the Baroque Age 1600’s to the present day. Students will complete one project inspired by an artist, idea or historical event associated with each major art movement from this time period.

Drawing: Students will explore the technical and expressive aspects of drawing including methods such as perspective, gesture drawing, line drawing, cross-hatching, value studies, portrait, cartooning, still-life and fantasy. Students will use materials including graphite, chalk pastel, oil pastel, pen and ink, crayon, colored pencil and marker. Students will take inspiration from other artists, participate in class critiques and reflect on the creative process involved in creating each artwork.

Painting: Students will explore the technical and expressive aspects of painting including methods such as portrait, landscape, sumi-brush painting, still-life, abstract and non-objective art. Students will use materials including tempera, acrylic, oil pastels and watercolors. Students will take inspiration from other artists and cultures, participate in class critiques, learn basic art vocabulary and reflect on the creative process involved in creating each artwork.

Advanced Painting: Students will build upon what they have learned in previous painting courses. They will be exploring intermediate, advanced technical and expressive applications of painting in a variety of materials which may include: oil pastel, tempera paint, acrylic paint, and watercolor paint. Some projects may include: portrait, landscape, expressive, still-life, abstract, non-objective, and experimental painting. Students will take inspiration from other artists and cultures, participate in class critiques and reflect on the creative process involved in creating each artwork.

Advanced Drawing: Students will build upon what they have learned in previous drawing and painting courses. They will be exploring intermediate and advanced technical and expressive applications of drawing and painting in a variety of materials which may include: pencil, charcoal, oil pastel, pastel, colored pencil, ink, and watercolor paint. Students will take inspiration from other artists and cultures, participate in class critiques and reflect on the creative process involved in creating each artwork.

Human Connections: This art class challenges 7th and 8th grade students to think about the message behind their artwork. We will discuss how to use the arts to communicate about subjects that are important to humanity (celebration, tolerance, freedom, the environment and personal expression). Human connections students will use music, dance, literature and drama as well as visual arts to communicate about their own experiences and knowledge with these subjects. This class is designed for the serious self-motivated student. Previous visual arts experience is not necessary.

Intro to Art: Students will explore the basic technical and expressive applications of a variety of materials often found in art while making connections to other cultures and time periods. Materials of exploration may include: drawing, painting, printmaking, collage, ceramics fiber arts, found objects, photographs, clay, wire and plaster. Students will take inspiration from other artists and cultures, discover connections between art and every day human life, participate in class critiques, learn basic art vocabulary and reflect on the creative process involved in creating each artwork.

Elements and Principles of Art: Students will explore the basic technical and expressive applications of a variety of materials often found in art through study of the elements and principles of art. Materials of exploration may include: drawing, painting, printmaking, collage, ceramics fiber arts, found objects, photographs, clay, wire and plaster. Students will take inspiration from the structure provided by use of the elements and principles of art when creating successful artworks. Students will study the ways in which successful artists employ the elements and principles of art, participate in class critiques, learn basic art vocabulary and reflect on the creative process involved in creating each artwork.

Printmaking: Students will be introduced to the art and process of printmaking, including its ancient beginnings up to its relevance today. Multiple printmaking techniques will be explored including monotypes, relief, and calligraphy.

Illustration: Images are a vital component of visual communication. They can enhance and clarify messages and text, and they can even tell a story on their own. In this class students will explore how illustration is used to enrich and tell stories as well as inform and educate. Students will have the opportunity to illustrate favorite stories, songs, poems, and even add images to their own written works. Drawing, both with color and dramatic black and white, painting, and printmaking are a few mediums students will explore in this class.

The Math of Art: Middle school math and art concepts, skills, standards, and techniques will be combined to explore the “artfulness” of math and the precision, planning, and formal qualities of art. Students will create both 2-D and 3-D artworks. Artists such as Alexander Calder, M.C. Escher, and several Renaissance era artists will be highlighted. This class will be taught with art activities developed by both artists and mathematicians.

Set Design: This class is designed for those students who are interested in the hands-on experience in designing a stage set, construction, and the set design for the spring musical. Students may experience all or some of the technical aspects of theatre including stage safety, stage rigging, properties and props, sound, lighting, set design and construction, scenic painting, costuming, and makeup.

THEATRE

Creative Drama: This class explores dramatic activities that help to grow as a theatrical performer. Students will perform a monologue, a duo, and a group skit as well as participate in many other forms of acting including improvisation. Any student interested in auditioning for a show should take this class. Creative drama focuses on the “process,” for example, what are the tools and actor needs to enhance his or her performance.

Theatre History 1 : In this course we will learn about the history of theatre from the very beginning. We will study Primitive times through Shakespearean times. Students will learn about where theatre came from and some of its traditions. They will also study a play from each period and perform a scene from that same play. Students will also continue to grow as actors as they perform these scenes on stage.

Theatre History 2: In this course we will learn about the history of theatre. We will study Shakespearean times through modern times (including musical theatre). Students will learn about the time period, the playwrights, and the plays. They will also study a play from each period and perform a scene from that same play.

Improvisation: This course will cover the basic elements of improvisation: spontaneity, learning to negotiate on stage, and reincorporation. Students will learn to problem solve and “think on their feet”. Improvisation is a serious study of theatre that will greatly improve an actor’s skills.

Drama and Social Issues: (7th and 8th grade) This course will explore current events and popular social issues through improvisation, role-playing and dramatic readings. Students will learn the process of play-writing to effectively create scenes that delve into social issues. Students will get an opportunity to present a social issue of their choice.

Musical Theatre: This course is required for those who have auditioned and accepted parts in the Spring Musical. This course focuses on skills needed to take a production from audition to performance. Teamwork skills are also emphasized. Students will become familiar with various aspects of a production including but not limited to stage direction, character development, props, costumes, lighting, make-up and set-design. This class will also be used for rehearsal.

Comedic Theatre: Discover the foundation of creating comedy sketches for a Saturday Night Live style revue. In this class we will create a variety of theatrical comedy sketches, stand-up routines, production numbers, and satirical commercials. Through this process students will learn basic scene structure, character development, establish action, and learn the styles and genres of comedy. Students will be expected to act, generate ideas, and write for these comedy sketches.

Actor's Workshop- This advanced acting class allows the student to build on the tools they gained in Intro to Acting and Creative Drama to stretch their abilities as they take on more difficult acting problems and more difficult material. Recognizing and understanding of more complex scenes and monologues are explored as they learn to take previously learned skills to the next level.

Fall Play: Learn all it entails to put on a play! In this class we will study the movement, memorization, emotions, and character development needed to become an actor in a production. Through this process students will work towards the end product of putting on the fall play. Students will be expected to act, generate ideas, memorize for their specific role, and work as a team. This class requires an audition and additional rehearsal time outside of the class.

OTHER ELECTIVE OFFERINGS

Creative Writing : Experiment with a various forms of poetry, create imaginative short stories, and explore writing in new ways. This class will unlock the creative writer within you.

Physics of Flight (aka “You Don’t Have to be a Rocket Scientist”): “Rockets” is a fun and exciting way to look at the world of physics. Students will design and build paper planes (of various types), hot air balloons, straw rockets, water bottle rockets, and finally a model rocket to gain a deeper understanding of how and why things fly. Discussions and activities revolve around the actual physics concepts behind how flight happens.

Yearbook: Are you interested in photography or graphic design? This class combines the best of both of those subjects! Working independently and with your classmates, this class will create the school’s yearbook from scratch. This class meets during 2nd and 3rd quarters, and works hard every day to produce a professional final product.

AVID: AVID (Achievement Via Individual Determination) is an academic elective that meets five days per week. Students will receive two hours of instruction per week in college prep skills,

two hours per week in tutor-led study groups, and one hour per week in motivational activities.

This course is designed for motivated students who desire to attend a four-year college when they graduate from high school. AVID is designed to meet the educational and social needs of students in the middle...students who, with support, have the potential to succeed in a rigorous course of study.

Applied Engineering 1: Dragsters: Drag racing is an excellent way to motivate students while they design, construct and race their own CO₂ powered dragsters. Students will develop designs then create a prototype car in an effort to gain an understanding of aerodynamics as well as develop the skills to use various hand tools. Students then transfer their knowledge to create their very own dragster right down to designing and applying a self-inspired yet stylish paint schemes. The last step and by far the most fun is race day. So watch out as these dragsters go flying down the hallway.

Applied Engineering 2: Bridges: “Bridges” is a class designed for students to get hands on knowledge of bridge design and construction. This includes building several bridges using various construction materials, and building one bridge where cost analysis is critical. Once the bridges are built the true test comes.....How much weight can they hold??? The final measure of any model is the support and strength the designer has designed into it, thus the test with weight.

Natural Disasters: Through text and projects we'll be investigating earth's most destructive forces such as earthquakes, volcanoes, tornadoes, hurricanes, and floods. The purpose of the class is to learn the science behind severe weather and its long-lasting impacts on local communities. Students will explore current events as it relates to natural disasters.

From Page to Screen: Students will read a contemporary (published within the last 5 years) novel that has been (or will soon be) made into a movie. They will then see that movie.

Students will choose a book from the approved reading list and form "book clubs" in order to discuss, reflect, and write on the novel. They will then watch the movie and do the same. The final project will be to write a compare/contrast paper and/or a critique on the liberties the screenwriters and directors took when making the novel into a film...

Technology: Students will have access to Microsoft Office and the Google Apps for Education suite. The course will provide students with the appropriate skills to use word processing, spreadsheet, publishing, and presentation programs. Work will emphasize understanding of proper keyboarding techniques, computer systems and networks, internet research strategies, digital citizenship, and safety on the internet. This course also emphasizes the production of unique, technology-based projects.

Community Service Learning: is a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with discussion and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities.