Elective Course Descriptions

Art:

Intro to Fine Arts is a course that provides an introduction to art through multiple mediums. Students will learn and apply the elements to produce creative art projects that reflect their understanding of these concepts. An art background is not required but will be helpful. If you took this course in 7th grade consider Advanced Art elective.

Advanced Art:

Advanced art is a studio course in which students will increase technical skills, develop a more sophisticated approach to process and subject matter, and create a portfolio of individual work. In this class students will keep an artist journal to explore artistic process, experiment with materials and analyze work. Teacher recommendation from Mrs. Rodriguez is required. A student who is interested in this class should have a pre-existing enjoyment of visual arts.

Band:

In this year-long course, students will learn the basic fundamentals of reading music by playing wind or percussion instruments. Students who elect this class should be motivated to practice at home on a regular basis to succeed. This class has 2 or more required performances.

College Readiness:

This course will provide a place for students to expand on college, career, and life skills. Students will explore college options, investigate different career paths, and expand on various life skills regarding health and wellness, organization, critical thinking, communication, and collaboration.

Computers:

Students in computer class will learn and apply a variety of technical skills along with critical thinking and problem solving skills. Students will learn design techniques, drafting techniques, basic coding for animation, html and 3D design. Students will apply these skills while creating infographics, floor plan designs, a website and use the 3D printer. Additionally, students will expand their knowledge on Google Docs, Google Slides and Google Sheets while learning real world skills such as budgets, and resumes.

Introduction to Spanish:

This course will provide students with an introduction to Spanish. We will be using a method called TPRS (Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling). After some basic vocabulary introduction in the first few weeks, we will begin using storytelling and reading as the main way of learning Spanish. I think you'll find that learning a language in the context of a story is fun and helps you remember what you've learned. My goal is to make the course engaging by offering you opportunities to develop your speaking, listening, reading, and writing

abilities in Spanish. We will also be working on various projects over the course of the year like Spanish comic books, slide presentations, art projects etc. Learning about the Spanish-speaking world and its culture will also be a part of the curriculum. This is a great course to prepare students for Spanish 1 in high school.

Note: All are welcome, but since this is an introductory class, if you already have a strong background in Spanish, you may consider choosing a different elective.

Leadership:

Leadership students will learn and apply leadership skills in a hands-on practical way while collaborating, and organizing school-wide events throughout the year such as dances, rallies, and lunchtime activities. Additionally, leadership students will support after school sports, student orientation, work in the student store and participate in PC Pals – a partnership with Intel. Leadership students also have the opportunity to apply for student body council and attend a leadership conference and summer boot camp. (subject to changes due to COVID requirements)

Media:

Media Production students will learn and apply the principles of film and media. Students will organize, plan and write feature stories, then using technical skills students will film, edit and produce these feature stories. Students will also produce a PSA, instructional and creative expression videos. Additionally, students will learn the skills necessary to run the news studio, film, edit and produce the weekly school-wide bulletin. Some student produced videos will be selected for submission for a SEVA award.

Men's Leadership Academy:

MLA is designed to empower young men to become lifelong learners and globally competitive leaders – to be resilient, responsible and respectful men. Through service learning and a multi-cultural curriculum, the class aims to provide students with the tools to succeed, including teamwork, leadership, life skills, problem-solving and resiliency skills. The Academy focuses on bringing together teachers, students, parents and community businesses and partners to provide the encouragement needed for these teens to complete high school and enroll in college.

STEM (Coding & Robotics):

The STEM Elective is an approach to learning that uses Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics as access points for guiding student inquiry, dialogue, and critical thinking. This course offers a space for students to deepen their appreciation for the integrated nature of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The course has an emphasis on the Engineering and Design standards of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) in which students are empowered to use a maker mindset to routinely use a process that includes defining problems, planning, designing, testing solutions, reflecting, revising, and refining. Students will build a foundation in which they identify the criteria and constraints of a design problem, evaluate competing design solutions using a systematic process, analyzing data from tests, and developing models so that an optimal design can be achieved.

Students will explore STEM in this year-long hands-on class in which students work in a collaborative setting to solve real-world challenges. Students will access STEM concepts through 2 main components of the class:

STEM Challenges:
Students will be challenged to design and build various engineering and structures projects that use basic household materials. These challenges allow students to evaluate different building materials, work within material and time constraints, and consider budget as it may apply to the real world building projects that surround us. Some challenges will introduce concepts of various forms of energy and energy usage, as well as physical science standards about force and motion. Students will use math skills to calculate mass, weight and volume, kinetic and potential energy, speed and acceleration.

Coding and Electronics:
Students will explore technology via the use of different electrical components. They will use both software and hardware to design and test circuits and control the functions of LED lights, motors, and more. Students will use Arduino programmable circuit boards and modular robots that are programmed using C++ coding language. Within these explorations, students will apply science and math concepts to learn about gear ratios, frequency, and electrical circuits.

Yearbook:

Join yearbook and be Einstein's paparazzi. You will learn page design, digital photography, and business skills while creating an innovative yearbook that records our school's memories and events. Fundraising is required.