

2020-2021 New Elective Offerings

Course Description

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Literature Through Film (English Department--HS elective offering)

This course emphasizes film as literature with a focus on technique, context, genre, theme, structure, style, and, in some cases, rhetoric. It also utilizes texts (novels and short stories) that will be analyzed in the same ways while looking at how they have been adapted to the medium of film. The genre of screenplay will also be investigated. Students are encouraged to develop analytical skills and refine their critical abilities through this combination and will engage in readings, writing, film viewing, discussions, and multimedia projects.

Language Arts Exploratory (English Department--JH elective offering)

Students will participate in reading, writing, and discussion activities meant to increase reading comprehension through best practice reading and writing strategies. These strategies can then be applied to other classes and related reading materials. Students will also be engaged in the readings through high-interest text selections, both teacher-selected and student choice. Class will be supplemental to required English course.

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

Contemporary Global Issues (Social Studies Department--HS elective offering)

Contemporary Global Issues introduces students to various issues facing the world today. Students will explore global economic systems, human rights, world health, environmental issues, and the role of the United States and the United Nations in the ever changing age of globalization. This class is designed to eliminate much of the confusion surrounding these issues by connecting their historical roots to current events. Contemporary Global Issues will allow students to form their own opinions on matters that affect their world. Students will evaluate the issues and propose solutions from a variety of perspectives. This course will contain a heavy literacy component, with both reading and writing requirements.

U.S. Military History (Social Studies Department--HS elective offering)

This course traces the origins of the American military from Anglo-American colonial warfare to the present, including America's major wars, and the evolution of military technology and strategic planning. This course also looks at changes to the American culture as a result of war.

Current Global Issues History (Social Studies Department--JH elective offering)

Using current events, this elective course focuses on world and local issues that affect students' everyday lives. Topics to be explored but not limited to: the Supreme Court, the structure of the US legislative process, politics and politicians, civil rights and other issues that are newsworthy. Students will also create a presentation that will focus on an issue of interest. Students will be challenged to develop opinions based on facts.

MATH DEPARTMENT

Probability and Statistics (Math Department--HS elective offering)

This course is designed to provide a basic understanding of descriptive and inferential statistics and probability. Topics include the measure of central tendency, standard deviation, combinations and permutations, probability, sampling, and various distributions. Probability and Statistics introduces students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Emphasis is on application of concepts.

FINE ARTS AND RECREATION

Art in Public Spaces (Fine Arts and Recreation Department--HS offering)

This course provides students an opportunity to explore, design, propose and create public art. Students will gain a first hand experience in collaboration, social-engagement, and a participatory public art piece. Public art is often site-specific and is created in response to the place and community where it is placed. Students will learn what public art is, why it is important to communities, how it is developed and created, and review case studies that showcase the positive impact public art can have on a community. Students will collaborate with classmates to design a public art project that they will propose to school administration for approval and complete (*most likely a mural*) within the school building/community.

Ceramics (Fine Arts and Recreation Department--HS offering)

This course provides a comprehensive study in methods of sculpture, hand-built clay construction and techniques. Students explore three dimensional design while developing both useful and sculptural forms. Creativity and quality craftsmanship are emphasized. Students will develop a physical and digital portfolio of work by documenting their process in a sketchbook and organizing photographs of their work.

Music Appreciation (Fine Arts and Recreation Department--HS offering)

A non-performance class open to all students. The purpose of this course is to increase students' musical awareness and give students the tools to actively listen to, discuss, and critique various styles of music. Students will learn the basic elements of music and appropriate music vocabulary. Students will study and discuss a variety of musical genres, including but not limited to classical, jazz, rock, musicals, and world music. Investigations of composers and performers integral to the styles are included. Other activities include listening, discussions, projects, and presentations on each style of music.

JUNIOR HIGH ELECTIVE

Student Leadership (JH offering)

Through this course students interested in developing strong leadership skills will conceive, plan, and evaluate a variety of school activities relating to transition of seventh graders into Junior High. Participants will be trained in necessary leadership and life skills such as setting and accomplishing goals, collaborating with others, effective communication, time management, meeting deadlines, and problem solving. This course seeks to foster students' understanding of themselves and their capacity for leadership, and the importance of their leadership role in mentoring the members of the 8th grade class.