



# **2019-2020 Course Descriptions Grades 5-8**

## **DANCE**

### **Beginning Ballet** (5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade)

Students will learn to demonstrate and define various terms and positions necessary to establish a foundation upon which all dance is based. Correct posture and form will be emphasized. The dancers will perform in an end of semester showcase.

### **Intermediate Ballet** (6th, 7th and 8th grade)

Prerequisite: Beginning Ballet or teacher approval

Students will learn to demonstrate and define various ballet terms and positions, expanding their knowledge and abilities. The dancers will perform in an end of semester showcase.

### **Advanced Ballet** (7th and 8th grade)

Prerequisite: Intermediate Ballet or teacher approval

This advanced level course will focus on technical development in classical ballet through extended movement combinations. Emphasis will be placed on precision of movement, complex rhythmic structures and spatial patterns, and integration of the whole body while moving. Students will be challenged to build their performance quality, musicality and artistry. Permission from instructor is required for enrollment in this course.

### **Modern Dance** (5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade)

A product of ballet modern dance that is more abstract and free form. Students will learn to demonstrate the basic steps and terms of modern dance. A ballet foundation is highly recommended but not required. The dancers will perform in an end of semester showcase.

### **Jazz Dance** (5th and 6th grade)

A dance style originally developed with jazz music. It is a popular energetic and fun dance style. Student will learn to demonstrate and define the basic terms of jazz dance. The dancers will perform in an end of semester showcase.

## **THEATRE**

### **Beginning Theatre** (5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade)

This beginning theatre course is designed for students to learn about the fundamentals of acting, through the perspective of a middle schooler, including storytelling, physicality, vocal projection, characterization and basic stage directions. Students will build ensemble through theatre games, exercises, and devised scenes designed to develop and increase the capacity for creativity, observation, concentration and critical response.

### **Intermediate Theatre** (5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade)

Prerequisite: Beginning Theatre or teacher approval

This second level course allows students to build on the skills acquired in Theatre I through in-depth character study, voice work, movement, scene study, improvisation, beginning script analysis and critical evaluation through discussion. Students will continue to increase their capacity for creativity, observation and concentration and critical response. Students will build

skills through monologues and scene work and begin to look at the technical aspects of production

**Advanced Theatre** (6th, 7th and 8th grade)

Prerequisite: Intermediate Theatre or teacher approval

In this advanced course, students will continue to develop their skills through advanced character study, advanced scene work, in depth script analysis, and critical evaluation. Students will engage in all aspects of theatre production with opportunities to explore set design, costumes, props, directing and build an audition repertoire technique. Students will explore a variety of theatrical genres.

**Theatre Design Fall/Theatre Design Spring** (7th and 8th grade)

An overview of theatre makeup, properties, costume and scene/tech design. Students will work to develop design aspects of various productions throughout the semester. Attendance and critique of the final staged performance design aspects will be a part of their final grade.

**Musical Theatre** (5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade)

A musical theatre performance production class in which students will rehearse and perform a fully mounted musical. Students will develop their characters using facial expressions, gestures, movement and speech. A standard theatrical evening performance will be a part the graded final exam. Students will:

- Learn an entire musical production.
- Learn musical numbers both in voice and choreography.
- Learn responsible costume care
- Students will participate in a “tech week”, part in class and part the evening prior to the live show.
- Participate in “strike” at the conclusion of the production
- Complete, for a final grade, a self-review of the production.

**Intermediate Musical Theatre** (5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade)

Prerequisite: Musical Theatre or teacher approval

Musical theatre will immerse kids in the world of musical theatre. Students will learn complex choreography, songs and scenes from musicals past and present.

**Advanced Musical Theatre** (6th, 7th and 8th grade)

Prerequisite: Intermediate Musical Theatre or teacher approval

Performance based musical acting. This semester will focus on one musical play. Script work, blocking, rehearsals and critique through collaboration. Students wishing to explore the technical aspect may enroll as stage manager or stage hands. A standard theatrical evening performance will be a part the graded final exam. Each student will receive two tickets for the production.

- A full performance experience, students will learn an entire musical production.
- Students will learn musical numbers both in voice and choreography.
- Each student will be responsible for their costume care and makeup applications.
- Students will participate in a “tech week”, part in class and part the evening prior to the live show.

- Post production, students will participate in “strike”.
- Final grade will include a self-review of the production.

## **VOCAL MUSIC**

### **Choir** (5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade)

Students will explore choral music from a wide variety of cultures and time periods. Students will demonstrate application of melodic, rhythmic and harmonic patterns. They will perform using enhanced musical techniques. Participation in an end of semester performance will be required for a final grade.

- Emphasis on basic vocal technique
- Sight reading
- Two and three-part harmony
- Genre focus on Western Music such as pop and jazz.
- Emphasis on vocal technique

## **INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC**

### **Beginning Orchestra** (5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade)

This class provides beginning students with the opportunity to learn the fundamental skills and technique on stringed instruments (violin, viola, cello, string bass). Students will learn and be able to replicate correct instrument posture, bow hold, fingering patterns, legato/staccato/tremolo note articulations, various key signatures up to 2 sharps, basic dynamics, and many more string playing skills. Students will also learn about musical elements, history, theory, ear training, and ways to describe music. Students will learn and perform music from all different genres and time periods, including: baroque, classical, romantic, modern, rock, pop, jazz, Celtic and fiddle. Participation in scheduled performances is required. More optional performance opportunities within the school and local community, will be announced as they arise.

### **Intermediate Orchestra** (5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade)

Prerequisite: one year of orchestra and/or an audition or instructor approval.

This class continues to provide the opportunity to learn a broader range of skills and technique on stringed instruments. This includes beginning vibrato, shifting to and from 3rd and 2nd positions, various key signatures up to 3 sharps and 1 flat, 4/4 3/4 2/4 and 6/8 time signatures, a wide variety of additional note articulations and lots of dynamics. Students will continue to learn about musical elements, history, theory, ear training, and ways to describe music. Students will continue to learn and perform music from all different genres and time periods. Students will have opportunities to collaborate with other arts disciplines within the school for combined performances and experiences. Participation in scheduled performances is required. More optional performance opportunities within the school and local community, will be announced as they arise.

### **Advanced Orchestra** (7th and 8th grade)

Prerequisite: two years of orchestra and an audition or instructor approval.

This class continues to provide students with the opportunity to learn a large range of skills and technique on stringed instruments. This includes vibrato, shifting to and from 2nd 3rd 4th and 5th positions, various key signatures up to 4 sharps and 4 flats, 4/4 3/4 2/4 6/8 and more time signatures, all note articulations and all dynamic varieties. Emphasis is placed on development of artistic musicianship through advanced orchestral literature and technique studies. This class is for dedicated and advanced string players with a serious interest in playing advanced orchestral music. Students will continue to learn about musical elements, history, theory, ear training, and ways to describe music. Students will continue to learn and perform music from all different genres and time periods. Participation in scheduled performances is required. More optional performance opportunities within the school and local community, will be announced as they arise.

### **Band** (5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade)

5th grade Band will teach students to play a brass, woodwind or percussion instrument. The students will play from a method book that will cover notes names, rhythms, fingerings/slide positions/sticking, basic music theory, and full ensemble repertoire. Participation in scheduled performances is required. Band students are required to practice at least 90 minutes per week.

6th grade band will expand their music theory, rhythmic complexity, learn more notes, and expand their playing ranges. Students will work out of "Essential Elements" book 2 as well as "Foundations for Superior Performance" which will introduce them to major and minor scales as well as various chorales in different keys. Band members will perform full ensemble literature in addition to their two method books. Participation in scheduled performances is required. Band students are required to practice at least 90 minutes per week.

7th/8th grade band will be an advanced level band class and their course work will reflect that. They will expand their music theory (key signatures, enharmonics, scale construction), increase rhythmic complexity (mixed meter), learn more notes, and expand their playing ranges. Students will be required to memorize major scales and use a metronome for practice. Band members will perform full ensemble literature in addition to their two method books. Students will work out of "Essential Elements" book 2 as well as "Foundations for Superior Performance". Participation in scheduled performances is required. Band students are required to practice at least 120 minutes per week.

### **Jazz Band** (7th and 8th grade)

Prerequisite: 1 year of Band or teacher approval

Students must also be enrolled in band and must play one of the following instruments to be in jazz band-saxophone, trumpet, trombone, percussion, piano, guitar or bass. Some exceptions can be made to this, but must have teacher approval. Students should have an advanced knowledge of their instrument so that we can expand to play blues scales, some modes, complex rhythms, and learn to improvise. A variety of jazz styles will be introduced, including swing, blues, latin and ballads. Participation in scheduled performances is required. Band students are required to practice at least 120 minutes per week.

### **Beginning Guitar** (6th, 7th and 8th grade)

Students will be introduced to basic acoustic guitar in a group lesson setting. Students will perform melodies using traditional notation.

- Students will learn basic skills and techniques of playing the guitar.
- Students will learn about guitar music, world cultures featuring guitars, guitars influences and famous guitarists.
- Students will need to provide their own guitars.

### **Intermediate Guitar** (6th, 7th and 8th grade)

Prerequisite: Beginning Guitar or teacher approval

Intermediate Guitar is for the intermediate to advanced player seeking the opportunity to perform at a higher level. This course will serve as a review of basics and then focus mostly on playing as part of a guitar ensemble. You must be comfortable performing individually and in groups. You must have basic knowledge of the guitar, able to play chords, count and play basic rhythms, read traditional notation (not tabs), and know at least the G Major scale.

### **Beginning Keyboarding Piano** (6th, 7th and 8th grade)

Students will play electronic keyboards as they learn concepts and fundamentals needed to perform the piano. Students will notate simple compositions and improvise question and answer and basic musical phrases. Participation in an end of semester performance will be required for a final grade.

- Demonstrate basic competencies of piano performance in the areas of tone production, technique, and phrasing.
- Identify music notation and symbols related to the level of proficiency.

### **Intermediate Keyboarding Piano** (6th, 7th and 8th grade)

Prerequisite: Beginning Keyboarding Piano or teacher approval

Students will play electronic keyboards as they learn music theory concepts and intermediate piano solos. They will learn techniques to improve form and speed, and will also learn the structure of Composition and improvisation. Demonstrate foundational competencies for piano performance in the areas of tone production, technique, phrasing, theory, and improvisation. Identify chord structures and musical concepts within a piano context. Participation in an end of semester performance will be required for a final grade.

### **Advanced Keyboarding Piano** (7th and 8th grade)

Prerequisite: Intermediate Keyboarding Piano

Students will play electronic keyboards as they strengthen basic music theory concepts while being introduced to advanced theory concepts. Unconventional scale fingerings, and double octaves will be introduced. Students will work on reading and memorizing advanced piano solos. They will learn techniques to improve form and speed, and will also work more in depth with the structure of Composition and improvisation. They will be asked to demonstrate high level competencies for piano performance in the areas of tone production, technique, phrasing, theory, and improvisation. Students will also work with chord structures and musical concepts within a piano context. Participation in an end of semester performance will be required for a final grade.

## **ACADEMIC ELECTIVES**

### **Beginning Technology** (5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade)

In this course, students will learn about IOS Apps, coding, iPad techniques for photography, personal finance presentations and 3D technical drawing skills. Students will learn to incorporate technology productivity into their daily lives. This hands on class will include a competition using an RC and/or Electric Car, depending on the semester. This class has costs associated with the competitions, including possible travel, accommodations, and entry fees.

### **Intermediate Technology** (7th and 8th grade)

Prerequisite: Beginning Technology

This hands on class will be a competition based learning experience. Competing against other schools in FIRST (Lego League), VEX (Robotics), TSA (Technology Student Association) and NREL (Electric Car Competition) depending on the semester. Students will learn competitive skills in robotics, presentations, racing, teamwork, building and an individual project for TSA in an area of interest of their choice. This class has costs associated with the competitions, including possible travel, accommodations, and entry fees.

### **Debate** (7th and 8th grade)

Public Speaking courses enable students, through practice, to develop communication skills that can be used in a variety of speaking situations (such as small and large group discussions, delivery of lectures or speeches in front of audiences, and so on). Course topics may include (but are not limited to) research and organization, writing for verbal delivery, stylistic choices, visual and presentation skills, analysis and critique, and development of self-confidence.

### **Multimedia Productions** (7th and 8th grade)

Students will explore elements of film and storytelling, including story arcs, character creation, camera angles and shots. Students will gain an understanding of the film making process from beginning to end, starting with brainstorming ideas, sketching out storyboards and creating shot lists to final editing and offering feedback to peers. Students will apply their knowledge of film and the film making process to write original short films, create stop motions, parody and music videos. Students will gain skills in manipulating and using technology including garage band, iMovie, keynote, pages and photos.

### **Shakespeare** (7th and 8th grade)

In this course, students will learn Shakespeare through text and active performance. Students of every skill level will find Shakespeare accessible and fun! Scenes from comedies, tragedies, and history plays will be explored through games and interactive lessons. Students will work together to stage their own interpretations of the bard's work as well as prepare for DPS's Shakespeare Festival and Parker Shakespeare Festivals. Plays studied may include Twelfth Night, Macbeth, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Julius Caesar, and Henry IV, Part 1.

### **Yearbook** (7th and 8th grade)

Yearbook is both an extracurricular activity and a class for general credit. It is a project-based, production-intensive course that focuses on the entire school with the mission of providing a fun, accurate historical account of the school year for the student body in the form of a yearbook.

This is a visual arts class, that will teach students about teamwork, responsibility, brainstorming, content, writing, headlines, editing, photography, graphic design, advertising, and sales distribution.

**Consumer & Family Sciences (7th and 8th grade)**

Consumer & Family Sciences (most commonly known as home economics or 'home ec'), focuses on understanding daily issues and improving aspects of life that impact individuals, families, and communities. Students will experience direct hands-on learning about a great variety of topics, including: how to prepare and present meals and recipes, proper kitchen sanitation and safety, food nutrition and quality, purchasing foods and household goods, basic methods of sewing and identifying fabrics, essential household tools and uses, and how to maintain a household budget. Students enrolled in this course will also be integrating their skills with performing arts events and other school functions such as concessions, dinner theatre, costuming, and other projects as the need arises. Students will integrate the use of technology through producing their own cooking shows, creating electronic portfolios of their work, compiling their own recipe e-book, and much more.