

Writers Workshop

Students become authors in this creative writing class that explores the communication of thoughts, feelings, and ideas in a variety of written forms. A fun, free environment is encouraged as students push the limits of their imagination and take ownership of the creative process. Students choose their own subject matter and are encouraged to think outside the box. Unique exercises teach the students how to write original works of fiction, poetry, and personal narrative. Students also have the opportunity to grow in areas of observation, planning, collaboration, and public speaking. Their pieces are developed in a lively workshop setting where encouragement and respect is the rule of the day. This course allows students to transform into confident young writers and find their original voice. At the end of the year, the best pieces of writing are selected to be read at an open mic night for the 6th grade.

Problem Based Learning

Problem Based Learning, or PBL, is a student-centered approach to learning in which students learn about a subject by working either individually or in groups to solve an open-ended problem. Students will learn how to think through problems by themselves and collaboratively. The problem itself is what drives the motivation and the learning, as opposed to the “traditional” style where concepts are taught and then simply assessed. Because the problem is presented first, the students generally must: examine and define the problem, explore what they already know about underlying issues related to it, determine what they need to learn (Woodchuck Questions) and where they can acquire the information and tools necessary to solve the problem, evaluate possible ways to solve it, solve it, and ultimately report on their findings. The ways that the students will share learned information may be through videos, essays, Google Slides, Prezis, or debates to name a few. It’s an exciting new way to approach learning! Some projects that have been done in the past are; building a better mouse trap, Debates on Local Mascots, safe community outreach during the pandemic, and building screens to keep the school windows open at night to get fresh cool air.

STEAM

(Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math)

STEAM is an educational approach to learning that uses Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics to engage students in hands-on, collaborative learning while mastering critical thinking skills. These learning experiences will allow students to discover, create, and own novel solutions to real-world problems and then test them out. Students will also develop and refine leadership and problem solving skills through collaboration. Some projects include; building spaghetti bridges, researching bike helmets and then building a contraption that stops eggs from breaking at various heights. Yes, we drop eggs in the classroom and then off the roof to see if they break.

Creative Math

Creative math is a 6th grade exploratory class designed to approach math in a different way. Students will be practicing math skills that need to be mastered by 7th grade and exploring other math concepts that the students would enjoy. If your child does not like math, or needs more math practice, this is a good class that changes how we approach math to practice skills. The class is divided into basic 4 units:

1. Problem solving – Students will be challenged with Sudoku, logic puzzles, and brain teasers.
2. Data displays – students will review bar and line graphs, learn about dot plots and histograms, create personal surveys and analyze the data.
3. Data and probability – Students will discuss probability in all its forms and make a board game that displays probability.
4. Mathematician research project – students will conduct research and make a presentation based on a famous mathematician.

Robotics/Drones

Introduction to Robotics is designed to teach the basics of how robots work, their role in society, and of course how to program them. You will build a LEGO Mindstorms EV3 robot and bring it to life! Some important skills taught in this course are being able to problem solve, communicate, work as a team, follow multi-step directions and of course be persistent! You will learn to use different Mindstorm apps to program your robot to perform a variety of tasks. Each robot has a group of sensors and can be built to complete a variety of missions. As the course progresses the challenges get harder, but even more fun. By the end of the course you will be guiding your robot through mazes and obstacle courses and possibly even trying to program bumper robots. This year there is also a Drone component. Students will fly and code mini-drones to fly in the gymnasium and/or outside.

Intro to Video Production and Presentation

Intro to Video Production and Presentation is a beginners course that is designed to teach students basic video editing and presentation skills. The course will use WeVideo to create individual and group videos, focusing on adding transitions, graphics, and music to enhance their presentations. Video products will be created in various styles, including narrative, informational, and persuasive. Students will develop skills in planning, organization, script writing, interpersonal communication, team building, and media literacy. Students will also develop writing and public speaking skills through interviews, advertisements, public service announcements, and news reports. This course will allow students to express themselves in a new and exciting way while promoting communication in the classroom. Perhaps the most fun part of the course is the Broadcasting element. A school wide Morning Show, which has become famous in the school, will be transmitted once per week where the traditional over the load speaker announcements are replaced with a video broadcast of events (like a newscast). These skills and knowledge of video editing will become invaluable as students move forward in their schooling.

Intro to Personal Finance

Intro to Personal Finance will cover real world topics such as savings/checking account, stock markets, income, money management, credit, and small business management. Students will also operate the 'School Store' which includes ordering and pricing items, keeping inventory, and working as employees. Students will demonstrate knowledge of finance, debt, and credit management and if time allows learn about the stock market.

Simple Woodworking

This course introduces students to the following elements of woodworking; shop safety, project design, materials, processing materials and construction, fasteners, and finishing. Students will complete a skills project and other simple projects (group/individual) during the marking period such as building a clock and a gumball machine. No Power Saws or compressor tools will be used so this is a physical class. This class should only be chosen if you are serious about learning how to wood work as space is very limited due to materials and can be taxing physically. IT IS HARD WORK AND THERE IS SAWDUST INVOLVED. RULES ARE VERY STRICT BECAUSE OF THE TYPES OF TOOLS THE STUDENTS WILL BE USING.

Fundamentals of Math and ELA

The Fundamentals Courses are meant to work on the basic foundational skills needed to ensure success in future schooling. In math, skills from previous years like; multiplication, division, fractions, etc., will be reviewed and practiced. This course will also focus on logic skills and links directly with the core math class as to review important material prior to assessments. Likewise, in Fundamentals of Reading and Writing, students will hone reading comprehension and fluency to make them better readers. Students will also work on writing skills so students can keep up with the more complex writing that is expected in future schooling.

Work Habits

The work habits course started last year. This course focuses on homework, organization and SEL. This is for students who are struggling heavily. Students are usually moved into this course if we feel that after the first marking period students must get back on track academically. However, if you are interested, please sign up. We may or may not run this course based on need.

Theatre and Public Speaking

This course will appeal to both extroverted hams and introverts who dread getting up in front of the class. We will explore different types of drama and performance, learn about voice, movement, and working with acting partners. In a fun and respectful environment, the students will have the opportunity to practice and perform scenes in the classroom setting. In addition, time will be spent practicing the art of public speaking. Students will learn to address an audience with confidence based on specific skills, feedback, and practice.