
6th Grade Elective Course Descriptions:

Performing Arts

6th Grade Band Ensemble:

Band is now a year-long elective course for students in sixth grade. The class will meet three days per week and focus developing musical skills as well as preparing several concert compositions performed for an audience at the Winter and Spring concerts and the High Note Festival in June. Students should anticipate some after-school practices and evening performances. Completion of this course will provide a strong foundation for band in sixth grade.

6th Grade Orchestra Ensemble:

Orchestra is now a year-long elective course for students in sixth grade. The class will meet three days per week and focus developing musical skills and preparing several concert compositions performed for an audience at the Winter and Spring concerts and the High Note Festival in June. Students should anticipate some after-school practices and evening performances. Completion of this course will provide a strong foundation for band in sixth grade.

6th Grade Chorus:

Love singing? Never tried but always secretly wanted to? Then sign up for choir! The general choir is a non-auditioned ensemble, so everyone is welcome to join! We sing music from around the world, music from different periods in history, music in different languages, and we even end the year with a pops concert in the spring! Come make music with your friends and have a fun time, all while learning musicianship skills that will push your vocal talents to the next level!

Visual Arts and Design

2D Art:

2d Art is now a semester-long elective that will meet three days a week. Students who take 2D Art will focus on various drawing, painting and printmaking techniques, and on the exploration of various media. Art movements and artists, and the art of other countries/cultures are also introduced and explored, as are interdisciplinary connections.

3D Art:

3d Art is now a semester-long elective that will meet three days a week. Students who take 3D Art will incorporate the basic elements and principles of design using materials like clay, plaster, fibers, wire, metal, and wood. A variety of cultures, artists, and art movements are introduced and explored. Students also learn to appreciate and critique sculpture, and discuss interdisciplinary connections.

LEGO Robotics

In this course, students learn robotics concepts, building robots with the LEGO NXT hardware and programming with the LEGO Mindstorm software. Students will build and program robots that will need to accomplish specific tasks based on a given theme and challenge.

MMS Investigates!

This new elective at MMS combines research and journalism with film design. In this course, students will brainstorm, develop, write, film, and edit an original documentary based on an important issue in their local community. Students will be taught effective research and writing skills, film recording and editing techniques, and the process of creating an original documentary, from start to finish. The completed documentaries will be shown as part of an MMS film festival.

Other:

Model United Nations

Are you interested in international affairs, current events, and debate? This course is designed to provide students with an introduction to the activities of the United Nations, as well as providing students with a basic understanding of international diplomacy. This course will include current events, pressing international issues, the basics of international law and some of the protocol and procedures of diplomacy. All of this will assist students in preparing for their role as a distinguished diplomat in a culminating Model United Nations conference. The course will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays for the year.

8th Grade Elective Course Descriptions:

Performing Arts

8th Grade Band Ensemble:

Band is now a year-long elective course led by Mr. Balas for students in eighth grade. The class will meet every other day and focus on developing musical skills as well as preparing several concert compositions performed for an audience at the Winter and Spring concerts and the High Note Festival in June. Students should anticipate some after-school practices and evening performances. Completion of this course will provide a strong foundation for band at CHS.

8th Grade Rock Band:

This ensemble will explore popular music styles such as rock, pop, movie and TV themes, as well as Jazz and light orchestral music. Music learned in this class will be performed at the Winter and Spring Concerts. Membership is open to all 8th grade students who are currently participating in the band program at MMS.

8th Grade Orchestra Ensemble:

Orchestra is now a year-long elective course led by Ms. Dodge for students in eighth grade. The class will meet every other day and focus developing musical skills and preparing several concert compositions performed for an audience at the Winter and Spring concerts and the High Note Festival in June. Students should anticipate some after-school practices and evening performances. Completion of this course will provide a strong foundation for orchestra at CHS.

Alternate Styles Orchestra: Jazz, Pop and Fiddle:

Students will explore and perform orchestra pieces written in jazz, pop/rock and fiddle styles of music. Students must be enrolled in the orchestra, if they would like to participate in the Alternate Styles Orchestra.

8th Grade Chorus:

Love singing? Never tried but always secretly wanted to? Then sign up for chorus! The general chorus is a non-auditioned ensemble, so everyone is welcome to join! We sing music from around the world, music from different periods in history, music in different languages, and we even end the year with a pops concert in the spring! Come make music with your friends and have a fun time, all while learning musicianship skills that will push your vocal talents to the next level!

8th Grade Select Chorus:

Select Chorus is designed for the intermediate or advanced singer/musician. The year-long course focuses on learning to sight-read music through knowledge of rhythm, pitch, and dynamics. Students also learn the techniques of good vocal production while expanding their knowledge of various musical styles, cultures, time periods, and genres. The class meets three days per week and is determined by audition only.

Musical Theatre:

Musical Theatre elective is designed for students who are interested in acting, vocals, and choreography as facets of theatre. Students will have opportunities to develop, direct, and perform pieces. There will be opportunities to explore different careers within theatre while working with a variety of musical and acting scenarios.

Visual Arts and Design

2D Art:

2d Art is now a semester-long elective that will meet three days a week. Students who take 2D Art will focus on various drawing, painting and printmaking techniques, and on the exploration of various media. Art movements and artists, and the art of other countries/cultures are also introduced and explored, as are interdisciplinary connections.

STEM: Creative Computing and Design:

Are you interested in computers, gaming, and design? In this new, semester-long elective students will explore programming concepts using *Scratch Programming (developed at MIT)*. Students will be empowered to use the *Scratch* programming language and their creativity and imagination to design and develop games, digital stories, and other structures. This course will run on Tuesdays and Thursdays for a semester.

Other:

Model United Nations

Are you interested in international affairs, current events, and debate? This course is designed to provide students with an introduction to the activities of the United Nations, as well as providing students with a basic understanding of international diplomacy. This course will include current events, pressing international issues, the basics of international law and some of the protocol and procedures of diplomacy. All of this will assist students in preparing for their role as a distinguished diplomat in a culminating Model United Nations conference. The course will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays for the year.

Peer Leadership/Conflict Resolution

8th grade students who participate in this new elective will be trained in the New Jersey Bar Association's *Peer Mediation and Conflict Resolution* program. Students will be trained in the principles of conflict resolution and by the end of the semester will be given the responsibility as 8th grade Peer Leaders to apply those principles in mediating conflicts between students in the 6th grade. Peer leaders will also be responsible for leading an effort to build a compassion culture and reduce bullying school-wide. This course will run on Tuesdays and Thursdays for a semester.
