

PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

The gifted and talented magnet school program is founded on the belief that all students possess gifts and talents that need to be identified, nurtured, and rewarded. It is the responsibility of educators and parents to identify these gifts and talents and to provide an educational program that develops them. Because the gifted and talented magnet school addresses the gifts and talents of all children, there are no performance measures, auditions, or tests that need to be passed before a child is accepted into the school. Some children may have gifts and talents in one or two areas, others, in a wider variety of areas. The gifted and talented magnet school is open to any child whose parents would like for him/her to participate in the program.

The philosophy of the gifted and talented magnet school is put into effect through the structure of the curriculum and through instructional techniques. The curriculum design advocates a “choice” model for students and parents. It provides them with options and alternatives for learning and is designed to accommodate varying types of gifts, talents, strengths, needs, and interests.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

This Course Description Guide was prepared to give students and parents information on the electives which may be offered this year. **The courses that will actually become a part of the master schedule for the fall and spring are dependent on sufficient enrollment, the availability of teaching staff, and individual school programs.** For more detailed information concerning the content of courses, parents and/or students may call for an appointment with the principal, assistant principal, or magnet coordinator.

Elective Course Descriptions

Lower Elementary (K-2 and 2-3 Electives)

LANGUAGE ARTS

A POEM IN MY POCKET

This elective allows the student to develop language skills and an appreciation for poetry through a variety of poems. Students will explore different types of poetry, such as acrostic poems, list poems, free verse, haiku, rhyming poems, narrative poems, and limericks. Various poets will be featured. Students will develop poet craft, through the use of sound word choice, creative Imagery, and figurative language. Students will develop poetry portfolios and create their own poems at the conclusion of this elective.

AUTHOR! AUTHOR!

Within every child there are stories of value. In this course students will become young authors as they delight in writing, illustrating, and making their own books. Stories will be shared with other students.

AUTHORS IN THE MAKING

This course will teach children process writing. As they create a variety of original pieces of writing, many different purposes for writing will become evident. Use of prewriting strategies, drafting, editing, revising, and publishing will be stressed.

BEST OF THE BEST K-2 - AG

Students will be introduced to books by award-winning authors and illustrators. Among the Caldecott, Kate Greenaway, or ALA Notable Book winners they will find stories that delight and fascinate them. Their enjoyment will be shared with others through activities such as read-alongs and dramatizations.

BLOSSOMING WITH BOOKS

The primary purpose of this course is to increase children's interest in reading and writing. When children realize that an author's words are interesting and powerful, they begin to recognize that *they* too have the power to make words exciting and meaningful. Children's knowledge of good literature will increase as they work on activities, which bring to mind a favorite author, his/her titles, writing styles, and illustration techniques.

EXPRESSIVE EXPERIENCES - AG

Oral language and vocabulary development are essential to good reading. In this course, students will improve their communication skills and expand their vocabulary to become confident at expressing ideas and information, both in oral and written forms.

FAIRY TALES - AG

The purpose of this course is to acquaint students with a variety of fairy tales. Discussion, role-play, reading, viewing, listening, research, and writing activities are used to explore this magical kingdom. Emphasis is placed on the origin and elements of fairy tales.

FAIRY TALES AND FABLES

This course will offer an in-depth look at a variety of fairy tales and fables. Students will participate in enriching activities that will enhance the stories as well as help students work towards an understanding of two of the oldest children's literary forms.

I'VE GOT CHARACTER!

This course will allow students opportunities to explore, in depth, through literature, the eight character traits: Responsibility, Respect, Courage, Kindness, Self-discipline, Integrity, Perseverance, and Good Judgment, and learn ways to apply them to their everyday living. The students will engage in activities that develop communication skills such as listening, reading, speaking, observing, illustration, writing, and brainstorming while developing their awareness of the eight character traits. The elective will culminate in the creation, development, and production of a Character Trait Newsletter to be distributed throughout the school.

KINDERGARTEN BUILDING READERS

Ready.. Set .. Go.. and were off on an exciting adventure! In this eighteen week course designed for pre-emergent readers, kindergarten students will explore basic curriculum concepts through social interactions and hands on learning. Activities will include puppets, manipulatives, cooking, literature immersion, and projects with an emphasis on learning the alphabet and basic print concepts. Come along with us as we depart on this exciting adventure, and build your skills along the way! Teacher recommendation is required for this course.

LISTEN AND READ ALONG

LISTEN AND READ ALONG provides the emergent reader with opportunities to develop good listening and reading skills through participation in language experiences. Students will engage in activities that develop various types of communication skills: listening, reading, speaking, observing, illustrating, and writing. Student will be introduced to different reading strategies to increase control of print and comprehension.

PRIZE WINNERS

The development of good reading tastes, attitudes, and habits will be the focus of PRIZE WINNERS. This course will encourage students to read good literature and to recognize quality, as well as to develop listening skills and reading comprehension.

PUPPET PLAY

This course is designed to motivate creative oral and written expression through the use of puppets.

RHYME TIME

Rhyme Time is a wonderful elective for a child who is at the pre-emergent or emergent level in reading. This elective introduces students to a variety of rhymes including nursery rhymes, traditional rhyming songs, and counting rhymes. The students will be engaged in rhyming word activities, phonemic explorations, creative expression through Illustrations and writing, art activities, and dramatic role-play based on the rhyme presented.

SIGN LANGUAGE K-2

Students will be taught the concept of using sign language as an alternative form of communication. Finger spelling and signing of familiar words and terms will be emphasized. Students will use their hands and eyes to "speak" and "listen" to others.

THINKING POWER - AG

Thought processes can be sharpened through directed practice. Students in this course will participate in activities to develop skills such as comparing, classifying, interpreting, and summarizing. Thinking Power is a language arts course designed to spark thinking in a variety of ways, encouraging problem solving and creativity. Planned activities incorporate the multiple intelligences observed in human thought processing. Students will participate in activities designed to address their areas of strength and to develop areas that need improvement.

WRITING AND PUBLISHING

This course will address forms of writing such as autobiographies, personal narratives, poetry, nonfiction/information reports, and fictional stories. Instruction will focus on the steps of the writing process. Students will learn different ways to publish their completed products.

SOCIAL STUDIES

CABINS TO CASTLES

Students will study the different kinds of dwellings in our country and their changes throughout history.

DATA BANK

Students will collect information about the world around them using observation and inquiry techniques. Data-gathering activities will include experiments and interviews. Students will use technology to develop questionnaires, conduct surveys, and display data on graphs and charts.

FUTURE CITY - AG

Students study predictions of what life will be like in the future based on observable trends. This will include topics such as the environment, food, and way of life. Changes due to inventions will also be included. Positive attitudes toward change and the future will be developed.

HALL OF FAME

This course involves a study of famous historical figures. Students will learn about the life and contributions of people important in our history.

IT'S A SMALL WORLD - AG

In this course students will learn about the interdependency of people around the world. Cultures in our world and the similarities between people will be studied. Students will learn other systems for dealing with time, money, and measurement; explore various foreign languages; study heroes from other cultures; and recreate customs from various countries.

LET'S CELEBRATE!

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to attend an Igbo Festival in Nigeria? Or eat during the Candy Festival in Turkey? How would you like to participate in a May Pole Dance? Or march in a Bastille Day Parade? Well, join us on a trip around the world as we learn about many wonderful celebrations and festivals of different people, cultures, and countries. We will experience music, recipes, language & multisensory activities: as well as practice our geography skills while we study holidays around the world. Come celebrate with us as we learn to appreciate the many differences and, more importantly, the similarities between so many diverse and interesting cultures?

TIME LINE

This course will be an introduction to the development of sequential order and time concepts. The past, present, and future will be explored as students compare homes, transportation, fashion, and food.

TREASURE ISLAND

This course will provide students experience with maps and globes. Directions will be emphasized in the study and location of basic landforms.

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS? - AG

Examining current events that are relevant to students' lives will be the focus of this course. People, places, and items in the news will be discussed and explored. Students also will create their own news using home and school events. This course will help them build a concept of the importance of being informed citizens.

WHAT'S MY LINE?

This course will be a study of how people earn their living. Students will learn what resources and services are available in their community. Jobs in homes, schools, neighborhoods, and communities will be explored.

MATHEMATICS

APPLES AND ORANGES

This course will focus on sorting and classifying items by similarities and differences: sizes, colors, and shapes.

ARCHITECTURE AROUND US

Architecture is everywhere. Students will discover the many forms of architecture and look for patterns in buildings and nature. They will use these discoveries to apply logical thinking and problem-solving skills. Students will use manipulatives to build architectural structures.

BEGINNING INVESTIGATIONS

This course introduces children to the world of data analysis. They learn to create a question, collect the data to help them answer that question, organize the data so it can be analyzed, and finally, to answer their question. Key areas of mathematics are utilized and reinforced, such as: counting, measuring, sorting and classifying, estimating, graphing, putting your findings into words, and interpreting what they have found. Computers and calculators are welcome tools for data analysis.

BOOK INTO MATH

This course will integrate literature and mathematics. Students will be introduced to numerous children's books, both old favorites as well as unfamiliar stories. They will participate in activities designed to explore mathematical concepts as well as to develop communication skills. Students will be encouraged to work together to read, speak, write and use a variety of strategies to solve mathematical problems which occur in literature.

DIMENSIONS - AG

This course will present students with learning activities that focus on understanding measurement. Students will learn how to estimate, use linear and area measurement techniques, and find volume and weight. Measurement activities will incorporate problem-solving techniques and projects that ensure application of measurement concepts. Metric measurement activities will also be included in this course.

GAMES GALORE

GAMES GALORE will strengthen students' math abilities by giving them opportunities to play games that will review, reinforce and enrich their math skills.

GEOMETRY JOURNEYS

Children will partake in hands-on activities that explore geometric shapes and concepts. They will begin to explore the concepts of lines, shapes and make distinctions between 3-D and 2-D shapes. Children will also maintain a learning journal throughout this course.

MAGICAL MATHEMATICS - AG

Discover the magic of numbers and mathematical concepts. Students who already have a solid grasp of two-digit addition and subtraction will enjoy using this knowledge to perform challenging mental feats. Activities will build on basic skills, introducing students to increasingly complex mathematical processes.

MATH AROUND US – AG

Math is an inescapable part of life. Students will discover how important math is to the everyday life as they look for geometric patterns, work with categories, and apply logical thinking to verbal problems.

MATH MANIPULATION

This course will give students opportunities to use manipulative materials, such as unifix cubes and cuisenaire rods. It will reinforce the math concept of one-to-one correspondence, number groupings, sets, the base ten number system, and addition and subtraction problems.

MATH READINESS

This course is designed for the reinforcement of math concepts and skills taught in the regular classroom. Children will use many concrete objects and hands-on experiences to gain an understanding of each concept. Permission of the teacher is needed to register for this course.

MEASURING MADNESS

Students will be exposed to the many ways of measuring length, mass, and volume. The concepts of more, less, greater, smaller, few, and many will be explored; and estimation and comparison will be emphasized.

PATTERNING - AG

Students in this course will develop thinking skills while working with attribute blocks and tangram games and puzzles. They will solve problems involving classification and relationships between classes, groups, and sets.

PIGGY BANK, THE

Students will learn to count money, add and subtract dollars and cents, make change, purchase products, and solve problems involving money.

PLUS AND MINUS

This course provides a sequential approach to reinforcement of addition and subtraction. A strong emphasis is placed on the use of manipulative materials when reviewing concepts. Many developmental activities are game-oriented to actively engage the learner. Memorization of math facts will be stressed.

PROBLEM SOLUTIONS

PROBLEM SOLUTIONS will strengthen students' math abilities by giving them opportunities to play games that will review, reinforce, and enrich their math skills.

SOLVE IT! K-2

We're off on a great math adventure! In this elective, children will develop their problem solving skills as they are required to think both logically and creatively. We will focus on solution strategies (pattern, deduction, relationships, Inference, and sequences), rather than on computational practice. Some of our problems will require careful thought and reasoning. Others will have solutions that will instantly occur to children in a sudden burst of insight. All of our work will increase their appreciation for and understanding of mathematical ways of thinking.

TIME, TEMPERATURE, AND MONEY

Students will be taught the concept of time using clocks and calendars. Prediction and arrangement of time events in logical sequence will be emphasized. Reading temperatures -- both Fahrenheit and Celsius -- will be included in this elective along with recognition of coin denominations and their values.

SCIENCE

AFRICAN SAFARI

Information about African animals and their habitats will be explored. Students will be made aware of man's responsibility to save the animals.

ANIMALS, ANIMALS

Students will study domesticated and wild animals through books, songs, films, and hands-on activities. The animal habitats of home, farm, zoo, and natural environments will be the focus in this course.

ANIMAL STUDIES – AG

Students will explore animal classifications, habitats, life spans, body features, and defense mechanisms through creative activities. The animal kingdom's endangered species will also be identified.

COME FLY WITH ME - AG

This course is designed to acquaint students with the principles of flight. As a result of this study, students will be able to make an aerodynamically sound air machine. Concepts covered in this course will include Sir Isaac Newton's and Bernoulli's laws and their application to flight.

CORAL REEF COMMUNITY

This course will introduce primary students to the plants, animals and environment of the coral reef. Students will be involved in activities designed to help them identify, compare, and contrast the animals and plants of the coral reef with freshwater and land animals. Students will use classification and measuring skills while comparing and contrasting the characteristics and basic needs of the organisms present in the reef with those on land and in freshwater. A study of land and sea turtles and their life cycles is included to illustrate this concept. The learner will have the opportunity to ask a marine biologist questions about coral reefs online and explore web sites picturing coral reefs around the world.

CREEPY CREATURES

The largest group of creatures in the animal kingdom crawl, creep, and fly. They are insects. Some insects live in colonies, have specific jobs, and communicate with one another. Some insect actions tell temperature, and not all insects are "bugs". In this course students learn interesting facts about insects.

GREEN THUMB, THE

This course will provide opportunities for students to experiment with growing flowers, herbs, and vegetables. Terrariums will be constructed, and final projects will be exhibited.

HOW THINGS WORK

Students will explore the fascinating world of gadgets and tools in looking at how things work! Tools, machines, gears, and other gizmos will be used as students build their understanding of how simple machines and tools make our world an easier place in which to live.

IT'S FOR THE BIRDS

This course will use inquiry, data collection, observation, comparisons, and hands-on experiences to identify various birds. Students will study many local birds.

KITCHEN CHEMISTRY

In this course the students will learn, through many exciting experiments, about simple scientific phenomena, such as physical and chemical changes; states of matter--solids, liquids, and gases; and the cause and effect of heat. Students will also learn how ice cream and soap are made.

LEARNING THROUGH EXPERIMENTATION - AG

Students need to be actively involved in learning science if they are to enhance their creative potential. In this course, students will participate in a variety of science experiments to learn scientific concepts, to make hypotheses, and to draw conclusions.

LET'S GO LIFECYCLING!

This course will examine the lifecycles of plants and animals (amphibious, aquatic, insect, and mammal). Students will observe and study the different stages, how they are alike and different, and what is required to complete those lifecycles. The opportunity to grow plants and nurture life will be included.

MAGNETISM AND ELECTRICITY

The characteristics of magnets and their uses will be explored. Students will explore the basic concepts of magnetism and electricity in this course

MAMMALS OF THE SEA

This course will familiarize students with seals, sea lions, manatees, dolphins, sea otters, and of course, whales. Students will study the fascinating habits and habitats of these interesting creatures.

NATURE AND ECOLOGY - AG

Students will examine natural and man-made environments and will observe some environmental changes that have occurred due to technology and pollution. In this course, emphasis will be placed on the need for an ecological balance in nature.

NEW WINGS TO ROCKET BOOSTERS

This course takes students through the history of flight. Highlights of the course include: Chinese kite-flying, the great balloonists, the Wright Brothers' first "flying machine," the first space missions, the first lunar landing, and a glimpse at our future in outer space.

NIGHT CREATURES

The evening is quiet as the daytime animals are snuggling down for a good night's sleep. Soon the night is teeming with the sounds of nocturnal animals looking for their prey. In the *Night Creatures* elective students will learn about the many nocturnal animals and the variety of habitats in which they live. Students will explore the many adaptations that aid in the survival of these special animals and create and build ways to observe and attract these creatures to the world around them.

PETS GALORE

This course will focus on pets at home and in the classroom. Students will become aware of the development of pets and the process of selecting a pet. Proper care and responsibility will be emphasized. Enthusiasm will be generated through pet sharing, classroom participation, and hands-on experiences.

REPTILE AND AMPHIBIAN STUDY

This course is a fascinating study of reptiles and amphibians for the budding herpetologist. Students will study the progressive growth of reptiles and amphibians from prehistoric dinosaurs to specimens of the dinosaurs' relatives found today.

SEASHELLS AND SEA LIFE

Students will be transported to one of the most fascinating ecosystems on our planet, the sea. At this special ecological juncture of both sand and sea, a rich multiplicity of life forms are surviving, thriving, and interacting with each other. The exciting topic of marine life will inspire curiosity, and lead to greater understanding of the needs and environmental adaptations of living organisms.

THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

How big are things? Getting bigger, getting smaller, being near, and being far will be explored through the use of lenses, microscopes, and telescopes.

WEATHER WATCHERS

Have you always wanted to know how meteorologists predict the weather? In this elective you will learn what makes up our daily and seasonal weather. You will also observe and learn how to measure different types of weather. Through engaging hands-on science and math experiments you will become an amateur meteorologist!

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

BEGINNING SPANISH

Welcome to Spanish! Students will chat, play and have fun in Spanish as they build a basic foundation for acquiring a second language. Through hands-on math and science activities, music, art and role play, students will achieve a level of language mastery appropriate to their age. Typical curriculum will include the house, the nuclear family and domestic pets.

INTERMEDIATE SPANISH

Join Hands in Spanish! This course is designed for students who have successfully completed Beginning Spanish or who have an appropriate teacher recommendation. Students will focus on listening, understanding and speaking Spanish through math, science, games, art and music and will progress as appropriate to an introduction to reading and simple writing. Curriculum units will vary each quarter.

CONTINUING SPANISH

A World of Spanish! Students who have successfully completed Intermediate Spanish will enter into this course and further enhance and strengthen their fundamental skills in the language. In our cooperative classroom, students will work together and help each other to communicate on familiar topics. Students will be able to share experiences and make jokes in their second language through hands-on activities, songs, art projects and games. Topics of study will be integrated from basic classroom curriculum and will vary each quarter.

BEGINNING FRENCH

Welcome to French! Students will chat, play and have fun in French as they build a basic foundation for acquiring a second language. Through hands-on math and science activities, music, art and role play, students will achieve a level of language mastery appropriate to their age. Typical curriculum will include the house, the nuclear family and domestic pets.

INTERMEDIATE FRENCH

Join Hands in French! This course is designed for students who have successfully completed Beginning French or who have an appropriate teacher recommendation. Students will focus on listening, understanding and speaking Spanish through math, science, games, art and music and will progress as appropriate to an introduction to reading and simple writing. Curriculum units will vary each quarter.

CONTINUING FRENCH

A World of French! Students who have successfully completed Intermediate French will enter into this course and further enhance and strengthen their fundamental skills in the language. In our cooperative classroom, students will work together and help each other to communicate on familiar topics. Students will be able to share experiences and make jokes in their second language through hands-on activities, songs, art projects and games. Topics of study will be integrated from basic classroom curriculum and will vary each quarter.

COMPUTER STUDIES

COMPUTER EXPRESS

This course is designed to introduce first and second grade students to commercially prepared software for the microcomputer. Students will learn to run several different types of educational software.

MAGIC SLATE

In this introductory computer word processing program, students become familiar with keyboard letter placement and will write their own stories, plays, and poems. This activity encourages creativity in writing while students learn to edit and rewrite their own words and sentences.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

BASIC GYMNASTICS

This course provides an introduction to the various components of gymnastics. Students will learn a variety of rolls, positions, and stunts on the mats, balance beam, vaulting horse, and even/uneven parallel bars. All movements will be taught with safety and spotting. The focus will be to improve balance, coordination, strength, and flexibility.

LEARNING THROUGH GAMES

This course provides additional ideas and activities to help enhance the academic, social, and physical needs of the primary school student. The activities will strengthen group cooperation skills and encourage mastery of physical education skills.

LIFETIME SPORTS K-2

Students will participate in indoor and outdoor physical education movement activities. The basic skills of balance and coordination, as well as developmental exercises will be emphasized in lead up games for such lifetime recreational sports as tennis, badminton, bowling, golf, and horseshoes.

NEW GAMES K-2

Students will participate in a wide variety of games which focus on the joy of play, cooperation, and trust, rather than simply striving to win. These games are based upon the philosophy, "Play hard, play fair, nobody hurt." Activity level will range from physically active to quiet group games. Good sportsmanship will be emphasized as well as practice in basic movement skills.

P.E. VARIETY

This well-rounded physical education class with a variety of activities will include exercise, movement, rhythms, and cooperative games. Opportunities for participation in team and individual sports and exercises will be offered.

READY, SET, MOVE

This is a course designed to strengthen gross motor skills by using large muscle groups. The activities will include imitating body movements, identifying and using body parts, and manipulating their bodies in space.

SPORTS ARENA

For the young athlete who enjoys team sports, this course will emphasize basic skill development which is essential to succeeding in sports. The importance of physical fitness, good sportsmanship, and working as a team will be stressed as students participate in drills and pre-game situations.

HEALTH

GROWING STRONG

This course will blend a study of nutrition and weight control with exercise and fun-filled activities to help all the muscle groups grow stronger. The focus of study will be healthful eating habits with emphasis on the importance of exercise and an active life style.

HUMAN MACHINE, THE

One of nature's miracles is the human body. This course will introduce children to the different systems of the body and show how they work together.

SENSE-A-TIONAL FIVE

Students will discover the importance of our five senses and how we use them. Through various experiments and hands-on activities students will discover how each sense organ functions. Students will be encouraged to examine and observe their world in new ways.

TASTE TEASERS

Students will learn good eating habits. They will have fun tasting and learning the nutritional value of a variety of foods. The four basic food groups will be included.

WATCH OUT!

In this course on safety, students will learn what actions to take in emergency situations. The unit will be divided into three areas of study: 1) home, electrical, fire, pedestrian, and school bus safety 2) bicycle and toy safety, and 3) school and recreational safety. Through role-playing, students will acquire and apply knowledge about many areas of safety.

VISUAL ARTS

ALL TOGETHER

Students will explore a variety of art media to build their skills of drawing, painting, cutting and pasting, and sculpting.

ANIMALS IN ART

Students interested in animals will have the opportunity to research, draw, paint, model, and cut to portray prehistoric, real, and imaginary animals.

ART IN THE MAKING

This course is designed for students who enjoy a wide variety of art media and wish to build on what they have already learned in previous art classes.

CLAY SCULPTURE

Using a variety of techniques, students will learn the clay process and discover the possibilities of the uses of natural clay.

FEEL OF THINGS, THE

Using a variety of art media, students will develop skills in creating visual and tactile textures.

MAKING RAINBOWS

Students will learn to mix secondary colors using primary colors, and mix tints and shades for use in paintings. Tempera, watercolors, and finger paints will be used.

MODERN ART: ART ON THE COMPUTER

This course is designed as an introductory course for our young students to learn how to create art using the computer. In an effort to integrate art and technology, students will complete traditional art lessons in a very 21st century way! The course will address curriculum goals in writing, math, science and social studies while simultaneously addressing fine art standards. (Recommended for first and second graders.)

PUPPETRY

Students will make simple hand puppets using a variety of materials and will learn simple performance techniques.

SHAPE OF THINGS, THE

This advanced course is for students who have developed their cutting skills and wish to explore complex cutting techniques in a two and three-dimensional manner.

MUSIC

MAKING THE CLASSICS CONNECT

Roll over Beethoven! This is a course designed to make learning about classical music fun and exciting. Students will create, listen, illustrate, move, conduct works by, and read about the masters of classical music.

MEET AND MAKE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

This course is an introduction to the four families of instruments: strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion. Students will meet these instruments through stories, songs, films, and performances. Percussion instruments will be played. Students will learn to read and perform percussion scores.

MUSIC WE CAN PLAY AND SING

Through a sequential, vocal/instrumental approach, children will be introduced to music reading skills. Emphasis will be on both rhythmic and melodic notation.

"ORFF"-ESTRA

This course is based on Carl Orff's unique approach to music. Students will be exposed to a variety of activities (singing, chanting rhymes, dancing, keeping a beat, and playing instruments) that will enhance their natural way of learning music. Special instruments will be used to insure successful music experiences. "Orff"-estra introduces students to a lifetime of pleasure in music.

PIANO PLUS

This is the perfect elective for students with prior experience to continue gaining skills at the piano. A piano lab environment allows young pianist to progress at his/her own pace. There will be performance opportunities

TREBLEMAKERS (CHORUS K-2)

Students will learn to produce a good singing tone with their voices. Students will be exposed to a variety of pieces from different styles and periods. These prepared pieces may be performed for school programs and functions.

DRAMA

ACTING THROUGH FAIRY TALES AND FABLES

In this introductory course, students will learn about the actor's tools (mind, body, voice) and how to use them to create plays and believable characters from classic fairy tales and fables.

CREATIVE DRAMA

This course will give students the opportunity to learn about acting and the stage. They will explore their own experiences through acting, improvisation, and short plays. Students will expand their senses in developing characters and situations. It is suggested that they take this course before selecting INTRODUCTION TO THE STAGE.

INTRODUCTION TO THE STAGE

In this introductory drama course students will learn about various aspects of the theater. Students will discover the role of the actor, director, and stage technician, and will become familiar with makeup, costumes, sets, and props. They may also produce a short play.

MIME

This course will involve students in the art of dramatics through mime. Students will learn pantomime techniques, enact popular and original stories, and participate in student performances.

THEATER GAMES

Through hands-on activities students will participate in improvisational theater activities to build concentration, stage presence, communication skills, self-confidence, and cooperative skills.

DANCE

1, 2, 3, 4, TAP, TAP, TAP

Did you know that anyone can tap dance? If you like to make noise and can count to four, you can learn too! In this elective, students will learn how to recognize and demonstrate basic tap dancing technique. At the same time, this course will reinforce primary math skills such as patterning, spatial and number sense.

CREATIVE MOVEMENT

This course is designed to build on the creative skills that were introduced in LET'S MOVE and to explore the basic elements of movement composition.

DANCIN' DUDES

This elective is for boys who love to leap, roll, jump, spin, cartwheel, skip and dance with friends to different types of music!

EXPLORING BALLET

This course will introduce students to the basic skills and terminology of ballet. Students will learn the history of ballet as well as the format of a typical ballet class. The students will develop strength, flexibility and the knowledge of proper body alignment.

EXPLORING DANCE STYLES

In this introductory course to the basic movement principles that pertain to all dance styles, students will begin to develop strength, coordination, and flexibility.

FOLK DANCE

Students will become familiar with the basic steps, rhythmic patterns, and dance tunes of many countries.

INTRO TO CREATIVE DANCE

This course will introduce the basic concepts of movement: Space, Time, Force, and Body by engaging the student in fun dance activities and games. Students will use music, instruments, ribbon, streamers and balloons to enhance their learning. The course will explore the difference between locomotor and non-locomotor movement. This course will focus on developing creativity, increasing kinesthetic awareness, and integrating basics with dance.

TAP TEAM

Dancers with previous tap dance experience will continue their study of tap dance rhythms, steps, patterns, choreography, performance and history.

CONTEMPORARY ARTS

CHESS I

Students will study the history and fundamentals of chess. Time will be provided for them to develop skills in chess.

WHAT'S COOKING?

This course will introduce students to basic kitchen tools and equipment and their proper uses. Students will participate in activities designed to encourage experimentation with basic food preparation.

MEDIA

MEDIA MAGIC

The student will design, produce, and/or select a variety of media formats to present information, such as a computer "slide show" accompanied by a sound track. Appropriate operational skills will be included as a part of the project.

PHOTOGRAPHY: TAKE A LOOK

Students will be introduced to photography as a means of communication. Their visual perception will be enhanced through exciting class projects. Students will create photograms, practice basic camera skills, and learn how to take pictures.

STORYBOOK FRIENDS

This course will introduce many types of characters in favorite storybooks. It will focus on the importance of characters and their character traits. Students will learn about fairy/ folk-tale, animal, and real-life characters. Students will communicate their understanding of these characters in a variety of literature extension activities such as puppets, character sketches, illustrations, published books, and dramatizations.

Elective Course Descriptions

Upper Elementary (2-3 and 3-5)

LANGUAGE ARTS

AWESOME ARTISTIC AUTHORS

Students will have the opportunity to make, illustrate, and write their own books. The books will highlight art skills and concepts, famous artists from around the world, and cultural diversity as well as commonalities. While integrating the two disciplines of visual art and language arts, instruction will enable students to create a variety of exciting publications of their own.

BEST OF THE BEST 3-5 - AG

At this stage students can choose from an impressive array of prize winning books such as: the Newbery Series, Hans Christian Andersen, and Carnegie Medal Books. They can pursue special topics including fantasy, fairy tales, folklore, and animals. Ideas and interests will be shared through their original art work, shadow boxes, puppet shows, drama, or booklets about their favorite authors.

BLUE RIBBON BOOKS

There is no better way to motivate students to read than to supply them with great literature that is enjoyed by kids everywhere. This course will allow students to explore many types of prize-winning literature. This elective will provide an opportunity for students to choose their own reading material and communicate their experiences with the other members of the class.

BOOKMAKERS WORKSHOP

Calling all student authors! Get your creative juices flowing! Learn from authors before you about the history of bookmaking as well as the art of bookmaking from start to finish. Then you, as an author yourself, will have the opportunity to make a variety of books, experience different ways that books are published and create a showcase of published pieces.

CINDERELLA AROUND THE WORLD

Pack your bags. Grab your passport. We are on a literature world tour to find Cinderella. Is she Appalachian, Creole, Chinese, Egyptian or Jewish? Who helps her with magic? Is it a fairy godmother, fish, turkey or dove? You will meet many different multicultural “Cinderellas” in this elective. Did you know there are over 1,500 versions of the Cinderella story dating back to the first century? Today there are 350 variants of the Cinderella tale. In this elective you will visit the seven continents and read a “Cinderella” story from many different countries while completing many activities and projects during the world tour.

CLASSY READERS

This high interest course is designed for students who have a strong desire to read, but need practice in applying reading skills. The course will emphasize reading as a fact-finding process incorporating thinking skills. Students will be exposed to an abundance of literature including the classics, fables, fairy tales, tall tales, poetry, and drama.

CREATIVE COMPOSITION - AG

Students will express their thoughts and experiences in creative writing activities. Descriptive and narrative composition writing will be taught with an emphasis on word usage, sentence structure, and paragraph organization. Story writing will include character, setting, and plot development.

CRITICAL THINKING THROUGH LITERATURE

This course will teach students about different levels of thinking and about seven different human intelligences. Students will be introduced to Benjamin Bloom's taxonomy of cognitive thinking and Howard Gardner's seven different preferences for learning before a literature study begins. In the literature study of novels from different genres, students will participate in activities that address different learning styles and specific levels of thinking. Students will have the opportunity to engage in traditional learning activities such as vocabulary studies, comprehension quizzes, and unit tests. They will also explore their own critical and creative thinking powers with projects and assignments involving music, logic, spatial awareness, body movement, and interpersonal/intrapersonal relationships.

FANTASTIC LITERATURE – AG

Students will explore the fascinating genre of fantasy. Their study may include *THE HOBBIT*, *THE PHANTOM TOLLBOOTH*, *A WRINKLE IN TIME*, and *CHRONICLES OF PRYDAIN*. Outside reading will be required.

I LOVE A MYSTERY - AG

Using the format of the mystery story, students will read and view classic mystery stories. These will include Sherlock Holmes, Nancy Drew, Agatha Christie, and Edgar Allen Poe. The story elements of character, setting, and plot will be examined and used in writing original stories. Deductive reasoning skills will be stressed.

JOURNALISM

Come and explore the parts of a newspaper from headlines to comics. Learn to write various types of news articles from stories to editorials. Enjoy an opportunity to create and publish a school newspaper.

JUNIOR GREAT BOOKS

In a nationally developed program of interpretive reading and discussion, students will increase their comprehension skills. Logical and critical thinking processes and literary interpretation will be presented through the study of exciting literature for young people.

KANGAROOS AND KOALAS

Students will learn fascinating facts about Australia including where it is located, how it was settled, and what it is like today. They will practice their comprehension skills while listening, singing, reading, and viewing films about the land of kangaroos and koalas.

LAUGH OUT LOUD

Compositions typically whimsical or fanciful in character will cause the writer to discover and express his/her writings in a comical and amusing style. Satire, comedy, farce, jokes, riddles, and exaggerations will be explored.

LITERARY CRITICS

Many good books have been published in the last few decades. Is it award-winning literature? Young readers are the best judges of good children's literature and, therefore, become the reading experts in this course. Students read, analyze story elements and author's style, and evaluate selected award-winning literature to discover what qualities make books great literature. How do the experts judge literature? What makes it great literature? In discussion groups, readers answer these questions, determine criteria by which to judge literature, create rubrics to evaluate literature, and use rubrics to rate the books of award-winning authors that have not won any major awards. This literature study course culminates with the students creating book projects that best demonstrate the great qualities of literature identified in the newly rated books. Projects will be displayed in the Media Center and rubric evaluations forwarded to the authors.

LITERARY STYLES: SHORT STORIES - AG

Young authors write because they have something to say. They use their imaginations and build upon their experiences to create a story that has never been read before. This elective offers students the foundations and guidance to conceive, compose, and publish a short story. The course is designed for gifted students or high ability learners and for students who display a keen interest and aptitude in creative writing. The publishing of a class anthology of short stories will give these young authors a sense of pride and authorship.

MYTHOLOGY

This course is an in-depth study of Ancient Greek and Roman mythology. Students will investigate the influence of mythology in our life. Analysis and comparison of Greek and Roman myths will be included in this course.

OUT OF THIS WORLD

Fasten your seat belts and prepare to blast off into the world of science fiction. Learn about life on other planets, underground cities, and explore how the impossible is possible through a variety of language arts activities.

PEN PALS

Students will participate in a variety of letter-writing experiences such as ordering materials, writing invitations, and corresponding with a pen pal. Emphasis will be on developing legibility and a personalized style in cursive handwriting.

PLAY WRITING

Imagination! That is what this course will require from young writers! Students will learn to organize their thoughts into writing. Are you the next Neil Simon? Samuel Beckett?? Sign up and find out! As they create their own plays, they will develop characters from fantasy, present day, historical, or futuristic settings.

PUBLIC SPEAKING AND DEBATE - AG

In the first part of this course students will explore the production and reception of oral communication in three major types of public speaking: informative, persuasive, and entertaining. Emphasis will be on writing, delivering, and critiquing informal and formal speeches. The second portion of the course will be devoted to teaching students the elements of formal debate. Students will then use acquired skills to debate issues in class.

PUPPET THEATRE

Through the wonderful world of puppets theatre, students will expand their oral and written communication skills, explore theatrical elements, develop artistic strategies while creating puppetry productions. Students will enhance their social skills by working in a cooperative and supportive environment.

READING AND WRITING POETRY

This course will address the reading and writing of poetry. Students in the intermediate grades will review basic reading skills such as syllabication, rhyming, and parts of speech while learning new vocabulary associated with the essential elements of poetry. Different styles and types of poetry will be presented and studied along with poems from a variety of authors. A study of these authors along with journal reflections will be essential in developing each student's own personal style. Students will be encouraged to create their own original poems in each of the styles presented and publish their poems in a presentation of their planning and design.

READING THE WORLD: BELIEVE IT OR NOT!

This course will enable students to explore various forms of media, which contain biased information. Students will begin to recognize and understand propaganda and will analyze ways their lives are affected by such material. Learning activities will include exploring media coverage of current topics, examining issues related to bias and propaganda in literary selections, learning about the motives and strategies used by advertisers, and creating and comparing articles and stories from varying points of view. Thinking skills development will focus on comparing, contrasting, and evaluating information; verifying accuracy of information by using a variety of sources; and learning to question appropriately to assess point of view.

SENSATIONAL SAGAS

Enter the world of fabulous folktales! Students will strengthen both their receptive and expressive literacy skills as they begin to understand and appreciate the three unique types of folktales. Fairy Tales, Fables, and Myths will be shared, created, compared and contrasted in this literacy rich elective. Students will be engaged in and enjoy the art of the written and spoken "story".

SIGN LANGUAGE 3-5

Sign language of the deaf is the world's most universal language. Learn how to sign the alphabet, words, and phrases.

SOAR TO SUCCESS: GRADE 3

The primary goal of this eighteen-week elective is to raise third students reading ability to grade level or above and to help them learn and apply reading strategies (predicting, clarifying, questioning, and summarizing) across the curriculum. Teacher recommendation is required to take this course.

SOAR TO SUCCESS: GRADE 4

The primary goal of this eighteen-week elective is to raise fourth students reading ability to grade level or above and to help them learn and apply reading strategies (predicting, clarifying, questioning, and summarizing) across the curriculum. Teacher recommendation is required to take this course.

SOAR TO SUCCESS: GRADE 5

The primary goal of this eighteen-week elective is to raise fifth students reading ability to grade level or above and to help them learn and apply reading strategies (predicting, clarifying, questioning, and summarizing) across the curriculum. Teacher recommendation is required to take this course.

STORYTELLING 3-5

The primary purpose of this course is to develop lifelong enrichment and personal enjoyment in storytelling. Students will participate in an art form as old as language itself. They will be taught the skills to become storytellers through practicing the techniques and strategies used by professional storytellers. Folk tales, hero stories, epics, legends, and original stories will be shared through storytelling sessions. Students will focus on the elements of a story while reading, viewing, and listening to various types of tales. They will be encouraged to retell these stories in their own words using various prompts such as flannel boards, puppets, pictures, and the like using appropriate voice control and expression. Students will remain actively involved as they apply skills in reading, writing, speaking, and critical thinking to create and present their own stories.

TALK ABOUT IT! BOOK CLUB

Join the club!

During this elective, students will have the opportunity to select from and read a variety of novels. This book club allows opportunities to read novels and participate in small group seminars/discussions. Follow-up extension projects will be generated through the use of computers, songs, advertisements, literature circles, Paideia seminars, and other book enrichment choices. Students will present their book projects creatively and participate in the development of a collection of book reviews for the school library.

UNICORN TIMES

Students will be working on the student newspaper by utilizing the objectives from the Journalism elective.

WRITING REV-UP

Grab your pencils, stir your imaginations, and shuffle the papers for this elective. Students will be using the writing process, as they become writers of letters, advertisements, descriptions, and short narratives.

SOCIAL STUDIES

AFRICAN AMERICANS IN US HISTORY

Who navigated one of Columbus' ships? Who built one of the first clocks in America? Who invented the first traffic light? Find out in this in-depth study of contributions made by African Americans.

AROUND THE WORLD IN 30 DAYS - AG

Geography and map skills will be practiced as we travel the globe. Research skills will be used to learn about the countries of the world. Booklets or computer databases will be used to compile basic facts about the countries studied.

CHARACTER ON TRIAL

Character on Trial offers children the opportunity to make global connections between character and the law by considering a myriad of multicultural fairy tales from multiple perspectives and, ultimately, bringing a familiar villain to trial. As students learn about the evolution of our own legal system and its unique place in world history, they will develop note-taking and letter-writing skills, use inductive and deductive reasoning to evaluate the merits of an argument, hypothesize the causes and effects of various actions, question the reliability of witnesses, and prioritize a host of issues.

CRADLE OF CIVILIZATION, THE

Sail down the Nile and explore the dynasties of Ancient Egypt. Look into the mummy's tomb, pyramids and hieroglyphics. Meet King Tut, the famous boy king. Through this course of study, the mysteries of Egypt will unfold..

FROM CAVEMAN TO THE GREAT WALL - AG

This course will develop thought processes of students through a study of history. Students will experience various learning activities about prehistoric man and early civilizations.

GLOBAL GENIUS

An intensive study of maps and globes will be the focus of this course. It will include locating places, finding distance and time, determining directions, comparing regions, observing and interpreting data, and making maps.

GREAT INVENTORS

Studying great inventors like Ben Franklin, Thomas Edison, and Granville T. Woods will provide students with role models to design inventions of their own. Patents, advertising, marketing, corporations, and stockholders will be investigated.

HOLIDAYS AROUND THE WORLD

Throughout the world there are many different holidays celebrated in various ways. In this course students will study the purpose of holidays and types of celebrations, including the different customs, costumes, games, foods, and traditions. By studying holidays students gain a better understanding of other people in the world. Special emphasis will be placed on activities to develop positive attitudes towards other cultures.

IF YOU HAD BEEN THERE

Do you know where your individual freedoms and rights originated? This course will focus on the fundamental documents and principles upon which our freedom depends. Students will study such documents as the Mayflower Compact, Declaration of Independence, the US Constitution, Bill of Rights, and the Emancipation Proclamation. Students will participate in hands-on activities that will allow students to feel like authentic colonists that lived during the time period. Activities include a timeline, journal, stories, letter writing, creating a commercial, brochure, news article and rap songs. As they study these documents, students will have a thorough understanding of the efforts that founding Americans stressed to build the foundation of democracy of the America we live in today.

LESSONS IN LEADERSHIP – AG

Students will study leadership techniques and the characteristics of persons that are, or have been, influential leaders in our country. Students will be asked to assume school leadership roles and practice techniques acquired through this course.

LIBERTY! THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

This elective describes the conflicting views held by American colonists and the British government. Students will learn about the problems that arose for England and the colonies. Students will learn how the colonists finally declared their independence, fought to make independence a reality, and formed a new nation.

LIFE IN THE COLONIES

This elective will explore Colonial life in American, with an emphasis on New England and Virginia. The students will develop an in depth understanding of the lifestyle of Colonial families through books, stories, craft activities, games, and projects. They will keep a journal of their journey through the Colonial Period. They will have an opportunity to select an item of interest, research it, and create a presentation to share with the class. As a culminating activity, the students will use their knowledge to create a Colonial Fair to share with other students and family members.

NORTH CAROLINA INDIANS

This course will emphasize the culture, contributions, and heritage of North Carolina Indians, past and present.

PEOPLE WHO MADE AMERICA

This course will focus on the lives of people who helped influence and form the America we live in today. Men and women of different cultures and viewpoints from earliest times to the present will be studied.

SKYSCRAPERS

Students will study the largest cities in the United States. They will review locations, populations, contributions, and points of interest.

TAR HEEL JUNIOR HISTORIANS

An exciting approach to North Carolina history, this club investigates the history and preserves the heritage of our great state. The club is sponsored through the NC Museum of History, includes many student projects, and may include statewide competitions.

THINK ABOUT IT! PHILOSOPHY AND LOGIC - AG

Join Harry Stottlemeir, a fictional fifth grade philosopher, who ponders such questions as why the statement “all cucumbers are vegetables” is true, but “all vegetables are cucumbers” is false. If you would like to debate issues, share concerns, be inquisitive, or improve your reasoning skills, this course is for you.

TRACING YOUR ROOTS

Was your great uncle a European nobleman? Did one of your forefathers ride with General Custer? Thousands of people can answer a resounding “yes” to these and other questions after they trace their roots. Searching for your ancestors can be a richly rewarding experience as well as great fun.

US GEOGRAPHY

Students will use the five themes of geography as a lens through which they can view and develop a more complete understanding of the U.S. They will learn landforms, climate, history, and culture of the different regions. Students will engage in a range of hands-on activities that will include building sod and adobe house, creating a newspaper article about African-American cowboys, recording their relative location with compasses, and making a math representation of an 1,800 square mile buffalo herd.

WE, THE PEOPLE – AG

Our judicial system will be studied as students explore laws, courts, juries, verdicts, and sentences. Students will be challenged to recognize their rights and responsibilities as citizens.

WILD WEST, THE

Join the greatest pioneering boom the world has ever seen through stories of gold, greed, adventure, and courage in the Wild West. Visit with trappers, explorers, cowpunchers, goldpanners, and railroaders as they explore the life of the 1800's.

MATHEMATICS

A BLUEPRINT FOR GEOMETRY

Students will be involved in challenging investigations that develop thinking skills in solving problems within real-life contexts. They will be working with the process of designing and drawing to scale a house that gives them opportunities to practice and master mathematical skills in a setting that is real. They will learn about the skills needed by architects, engineers, and builders who design and create the buildings we live in. Exposure to blueprints, the tools of builders and creation of their own blueprints are a part of this curriculum.

ARCHITECTURE - AG

Students will learn how to relate many subject areas to the environment of home, school, and neighborhood through the study of architecture. They will learn the significance of the built environment and its impact on society. This course is designed for high-achieving students who have a fascination with buildings and bridges. Critical thinking skills are emphasized and students will be given opportunities to make decisions on how we might enrich and protect our architectural environment. This course offers a unique way for students to learn about the familiar in a fresh new way.

CALCULATOR MATH

A pocket calculator can save time in solving math problems. Find out how this instrument can use its memory to help you find answers quickly.

FREAKY FRACTIONS

This course provides reinforcement and enrichment with fractions for fourth and fifth graders. Students will use fractions in real life situations to practice concepts of reducing, comparing, using mixed numbers, and performing basic mathematical operations with unlike denominators.

FURTHER INVESTIGATIONS

This course focuses on the processes of data analysis – collecting, organizing, representing, and interpreting data. Through collecting and analyzing real data, students develop and use ideas and tools from key areas of mathematics - counting, measuring, sorting and classification, estimation, graphing, computation in context, measurement, and statistics. Students are also introduced to appropriate uses of computers and calculators for data analysis. Although the K-2 Beginning Investigations Elective might be helpful, it is not a requirement for Further Investigations.

FURTHER WITH NUMBERS -AG

This course provides both horizontal and vertical enrichment for the student who loves math and likes challenges! Students will look carefully at other number systems, other bases, and strange and wonderful math patterns and theorems; solve simple algebraic equations; build a city of polyhedron shapes; and "taste" probability.

GEOMETRIC CONSTRUCTION - AG

This course not only helps the student to understand the concepts, vocabulary, and tools of geometry, it also brings geometry to life. Students will be provided with directed concrete experiences as well as freedom to create their own two and three-dimensional geometric designs.

JAMMIN' GEOMETRY

This course will introduce two and three dimensional shapes, lines and angles. Geometry will be explored along with basic word problems involving geometric principles. Manipulatives, pictorial representations, compasses, rulers and protractors will be used with many activities

LET'S MAKE A MILLION - AG

Bill Gates, look out! Students will learn about the Stock Market and follow their "money" on the stock exchange. Students will also learn the operations of a company as they write a constitution, elect board members, sell stock in their company, and make and sell a product.

LOGIC AND PROBLEM SOLVING - AG

Thinking and reasoning skills will be developed in this course. Students will discover techniques for solving problems through appropriate activities, which will include logic puzzles, deductive thinking exercises, and flow-charting.

MAHARAJA'S TASKS

Investigating division! Most of the activities involve collaborative work in pairs or groups of four. This allows students of all abilities to tackle challenging problems. Group problem solving is encountered in the work force. This elective provides many division experiences that allow for rich exploration.

MATH MAGIC

Give numbers a second chance. This course will enrich and strengthen students' mathematical skills. Students will explore interesting topics as they practice basic operations.

MEASUREMETRICS

What is a liter? How far is a kilometer? What is your weight in grams? Students will investigate the metric system and discover why it is used throughout the world.

MIND BENDERS

Math is all around us – at times right in front of our noses, and at other times mysteriously disguised. In this course students will explore the pattern, puzzles, mysteries, relationships, and fun of mathematics.

“MOOLAH MANIA”

This course is an introduction to economics for elementary students. It teaches the value of money in our society and simulates businesses so that students can really understand economics in the real world. For poorly motivated students, the power of money can spark interest in learning.

MULTIPLICATION AND DIVISION

This course is designed for students who need further development with the concepts of multiplication and division. It employs novel approaches, motivating activities and games, and practice with the basic facts.

NINE OUT OF TEN

Learn to predict mathematical chances in a variety of situations. The student who enjoys discovering the probability and odds in math happenings will find this course to be a "winner".

PENNY EARNED, A

Learn how to use a bank account to record your savings. By keeping records of deposits, withdrawals, and interest, you can compute your financial worth. This is an introduction to personal money management.

SOLVE IT!

Developing necessary skills and strategies in solving non-routine problems is the central focus of this course. Non-routine problems are those problems which a person has the ability to solve, but cannot decide how to begin. Some of the strategies to be explored are Guess/Check and Refine, Work Backwards, Use a Model, Make a Sketch, Make a List, and Find a Pattern. Activities will incorporate a wide range of skills in measurement, geometry, functions, number theory, whole number operations, and estimation.

SUPREME STRATEGIES

Students will devise creative strategies and techniques for solving these real-life mathematical problems. They will understand and solve word problems.

SCIENCE

AERONAUTICS - AG

The characteristics and composition of the layers of the atmosphere will be studied. Students will demonstrate, through experiments, Newton's Law of Motion and the Bernoulli Principles. The study of air pressure and how balloons, jets, rockets, and propeller planes fly will be emphasized. Manned and unmanned flights from the Montgolfier Brothers' balloons to the present-day space shuttle will be explored. Students will have the opportunity to launch flights of their own.

BIRDS

This course offers a close look at the characteristics and adaptations of this fascinating group of vertebrates. Birds of prey, songbirds, marine, and freshwater fowl will be studied. Students will conduct research projects, construct bird feeders from recycled materials, and keep a record of birds observed during this course.

BLOOMING BOTANY

In this course students will dig in the dirt, play with plants, sample seeds, look at leaves and explore ecosystems. Join us as we learn all about plants and how they interact with their surrounding environment.

BUZZ ON BEES

This course is a fun "hands on" learning experience for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders. In this elective students will learn about the value of honeybees to man and nature. Throughout the elective students will learn how a beekeeper works the honeybees and how the honeybees work for themselves in a social community. This elective uses beekeeping equipment and tools, videos showing honeybees and beekeepers at work, books, and a honey tasting party to end the elective. No live bees are used.

COASTAL ECOLOGY

Students will study the North Carolina coastal region, including its islands, sea life, ecosystems, and weather patterns. This course can be a wonderful experience for future marine biologists and beach-life enthusiasts!

INSECT STUDY

Eight of every ten animals on earth are insects. This course introduces the student to the world of insects and their kin. There will be an opportunity to collect, observe, and investigate the common insects found in our area. Students will learn about beneficial and harmful insects and the role they play in the environment.

INVENTIONS (DESIGN ENGINEERING) - AG

Students will learn about inventors and inventions of the 19th and 20th centuries through independent research and classroom activities. Several specific inventions will be examined closely. Students will explore the process of invention and discovery as they create their own inventions.

KITCHEN CHEMISTRY

Students will have the opportunity to observe, estimate, experiment, and record chemical and physical changes using common household items.

LET'S EXPERIMENT

Explore the world of physical and life sciences. Study matter, energy, and motion. Grow crystals, blow bubbles, and explore the microscopic world of mud puddles. Students will formulate hypotheses, set up experiments, record observations, and draw conclusions from their observations.

MAMMALS ARE AMAZING

From this course, students will develop an appreciation of mammals and their natural habitats. Through integrated activities, they will study mammals such as chimpanzees, raccoons, giraffes, bats, kangaroos, platypuses, and whales.

NATURE NEWS

Read all about it! Students who enjoy learning about plants and insects, and are concerned about the environment are encouraged to join in this elective and help spread the word to others. They will use reading, research, data collection, and writing skills to produce and distribute an environmental newspaper.

NATURE'S RESOURCES

In this course students will examine our natural resources. They will take a closer look at the composition of the air, water, forests and soil, with a particular emphasis on energy needs and uses. This course will involve research and discussion of current issues such as hazardous waste, pollution, acid rain, and nuclear energy.

PHYSICS IN ACTION - AG

Through demonstration and experimentation, students will get a chance to see physics as dynamic and relevant to their lives. Topics explored include: Newton's laws, momentum, gravitational and rotational forces, energy, light, heat, and sound. The course will develop observational skills and higher-level thinking skills as students discover why these things happen.

PROJECT WILD

This course is based on the premise that young people have a vital interest in learning about the earth as a home of people and wildlife. PROJECT WILD is designed to acquaint students with environmental issues which affect people, wildlife, and their shared home. It addresses the need for human beings to become responsible members of the ecosystem.

RAIN FOREST, THE

Do you know the difference between a jungle and a rain forest? Can you name more than one type of rain forest? In this course learners will be studying about the different types of rain forests and where they are located. They will research a variety of animals that call the rain forest home and determine which layer of the rain forest they live in. By the end of the course, learners should have an appreciation of the many products that originate in the rain forest and the importance of protecting its existence.

ROBOTICS

In this elective students will program and control actual robots that they build themselves using specially created software and Lego building materials. They will begin by following step-by-step instructions in order to build and program a simple robotic model. Eventually, the students will be able to imagine an original robot, program its functions, and finally "bring it to life."

SCIENTIFIC REASONING AG

The tentative nature of facts in a rapidly changing contemporary society makes it necessary for students to understand science as an investigative process. In this course students will observe, classify, predict, measure, hypothesize, solve problems, record data, and formulate conclusions through a variety of scientific experiments.

SIMPLE MACHINES

Boys and girls will learn about machines the old fashioned way: BY BUILDING THEM! Using kits, students will explore the world of simple machines. They will demonstrate a real understanding for what makes things work by constructing machines with moving parts.

SPACE ADVENTURES

In this course, students will study the solar system, the history of our space program, and methods of flight/space transportation.

TREE-MENDOUS

Students will gain an understanding and appreciation of trees and forests in their lives. They will study conservation strategies and the necessity for ecological balances in nature. Through such activities as adopting a tree and "eating leaves," students will enjoy this science elective.

VOLTS, OHMS, AND WATTS

Volts, Ohms, and Watts provide a look at how magnetism and electricity is produced, allows opportunities for experimentation with circuitry, and encourages construction of several simple electrical devices. Students will also create their own compass and electromagnets through hands-on experiments.

WATER, OH PRECIOUS WATER!

Although listed under science, this elective integrates math, social studies, language arts, and science focusing on the subject of water. Instruction provides an interesting integration of earth cycles, mixtures and solutions, and the use of natural resources. The course is designed to involve students in hands-on experiences, which will strengthen process skills. Children will develop an ongoing portfolio of their work during this elective.

WEATHER WATCHING

Beginning meteorologists will be assisted in understanding the elements that make up weather. Students will perform experiments and build their own weather instruments.

ZOOLOGY AG

Zoology deals with animal life, growth, classification, and behavior. Wildlife conservation and careers in working with animals will be studied.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

BEGINNING SPANISH 3-5

Welcome to Spanish! Students will learn basic concepts and vocabulary and will build a first foundation for their second language as they chat, discover and have fun. Through hands-on math and science activities, music, art and role play, students will develop their language skills from listening and speaking to beginning reading and writing. Typical curriculum will include the house, the nuclear family and domestic pets.

INTERMEDIATE SPANISH 3-5

Join Hands in Spanish! This course is designed for students who have successfully completed Beginning Spanish or who have an appropriate teacher recommendation. Students will focus on communication and literacy skills while following a curriculum unit that will include math, science and social studies concepts. Topics of study will be integrated from basic classroom curriculum and will vary each quarter.

CONTINUING SPANISH 3-5

A World of Spanish! Students who have successfully completed Intermediate Spanish will enter into this course and further enhance and strengthen their fundamental skills in the language. In our cooperative classroom, students will work together and help each other to communicate on familiar topics as they share experiences and make jokes in their second language. Reading and writing skills will be further developed. Topics of study will be integrated from basic classroom curriculum and will vary each quarter.

BEGINNING FRENCH 3-5

Welcome to French! Students will learn basic concepts and vocabulary and will build a first foundation for their second language as they chat, discover and have fun. Through hands-on math and science activities, music, art and role play, students will develop their language skills from listening and speaking to beginning reading and writing. Typical curriculum will include the house, the nuclear family and domestic pets.

INTERMEDIATE FRENCH 3-5

Join Hands in French! This course is designed for students who have successfully completed Beginning French or who have an appropriate teacher recommendation. Students will focus on communication and literacy skills while following a curriculum unit that will include math, science and social studies concepts. Topics of study will be integrated from basic classroom curriculum and will vary each quarter.

CONTINUING FRENCH 3-5

A World of French! Students who have successfully completed Intermediate French will enter into this course and further enhance and strengthen their fundamental skills in the language. In our cooperative classroom, students will work together and help each other to communicate on familiar topics as they share experiences and make jokes in their second language. Reading and writing skills will be further developed. Topics of study will be integrated from basic classroom curriculum and will vary each quarter.

COMPUTER STUDIES

THE ART OF ANIMATION MAGIC

And you thought PowerPoint was for those boring slide shows that business people used. Think again! PowerPoint can be used as a powerful animation tool. In this course, students will combine writing skills, artistic skills and technology skills to use PowerPoint and their own original artwork to animate a story they write. Students can go wherever their imaginations take them...all the way to the moon and back

COMPUTER COMMUNICATIONS

In this class students will explore communicating through various contemporary computer tools. They will critique commercial websites and create a webpage of their own design, participate in a class blog, and develop podcasts. We will study how other schools are using these tools before we use them. Students' work will be linked from the Underwood website using fictional names they choose for confidentiality. Limited to 4th and 5th graders.

COMPUTER MATH

Students will develop and improve their math skills using "Study Island", "Math Blasters" and various math websites on the computer. We will have fun using interactive games that target specific objectives.

COMPUTER WEBMASTERS

Students will learn how to write and create their own personal web page. Students will use the computer to write stories, poems, imaginative narratives and personal narratives on a variety of topics for their web page projects. The web pages will be posted to the school's web site once peers and the instructor review them. Dialogue will be created during the review process to make sure that high quality web pages will be posted to the Internet. Students will learn how to insert photos, graphics and drawings into their web pages.

COMPUTER WRITING

Students will become familiar with keyboarding and a word processing program. Through the skills acquired in this course they will be able to use the computer as a writing tool. They will use the computer to write stories, letters, compositions, and poetry.

MICROSOFT OFFICE 2000

This elective will focus on the different program in Microsoft Office. Learn how to work more efficiently and effectively with a new set of powerful tools for creating, managing, analyzing and sharing information. Join us for this powerful elective using Microsoft Office to learn Word, Excel and PowerPoint.

SEARCH AND RESEARCH

The database concept is an integral part of our information-based society. By interacting with various prepared databases, students will see how massive quantities of information can be stored on computer disks and be quickly accessed. Higher-order thinking skills will be developed as students manipulate and evaluate their own databases.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

BASIC CONDITIONING

This course is designed for the student who is interested in improving overall body strength and endurance. Through a variety of activities in rope-jumping, rhythmic aerobics, relays, obstacle courses, exercises, and jogging, the student will improve his/her physical condition while having fun.

BEGINNING GYMNASTICS

This course is designed for the student who has an interest in investigating and developing basic gymnastic tumbling and apparatus skills. Students will have the opportunity to learn rolls, balances, stands and stunts on mats, balance beam, even and uneven bars, rings, and vaulting horse. They will gradually improve in individual balance, flexibility, coordination, strength, and endurance. Safety and spotting techniques will be especially emphasized.

EXPERIENCED GYMNASTICS

By permission of the instructor only, this course is designed for the student who has demonstrated exceptional talent in gymnastics. Mat and apparatus skills will become increasingly difficult. At the discretion of the instructor and according to individual talent, walkovers, springs, and aerials may be introduced. Combinations and routines will be more complex. At this level, students should be able to create routines for class presentation.

JUGGLING

Students will learn how to juggle, beginning with two similar objects and progressing to more difficult combinations.

LIFETIME SPORTS I

This course is designed for the student who is interested in investigating and developing skills in a variety of lifetime sport activities. Students will learn the basic skills, rules and regulations, game play and strategies, and care of equipment associated with each sport. Individual and dual sports to be covered in this course will include archery, golf, and badminton.

LIFETIME SPORTS II

This course is designed for the student who is interested in investigating and developing skills in a variety of lifetime sport activities. Students will learn the basic skills, rules and regulations, game play and strategies, and care of equipment associated with each sport. Individual and dual sports to be covered in this course will include bowling, track and field, and tennis.

NEW GAMES 3-5

Students will participate in a wide variety of games suitable for this age level. Based on the philosophy, "Play Hard, Play Fair, Nobody Hurt," these games will promote the development of leadership ability in a cooperative group setting. Stamina and agility will be developed, as well as social interaction skills.

RACKET SPORTS

This course is designed for the student who is interested in investigating and developing skills in a variety of racket sports. Emphasis will be placed on skills, drills, rules, care of equipment, lead-up activities, and game situations. Racket sports to be covered in this course should include table tennis, badminton, racket ball, and tennis depending on facilities and availability of equipment.

RECREATIONAL GAMES

This course is designed for the student who is interested in a variety of activities that do not emphasize completion. The student will find activities in dodge ball, wiffle ball, shuffle board, frisbee, horseshoes, tether ball, and board games challenging and enjoyable. The teacher will select from this variety of activities according to facilities and equipment.

RHYTHMICS, ROPES, AND HOOPS

This course is designed for the student who is interested in improving his/her ability to catch and pass a ball and in increasing body control. Through a variety of activities in rhythmic, dodge ball, ball dribbling, passing and catching drills, rope jumping and climbing, and hoop activities, students should improve in total body coordination. Baton and juggling may be included in this course at the discretion of the teacher.

TEAM SPORTS I

This course is designed for the student who is interested in investigating and developing skills in a variety of team sports. Emphasis will be placed on skills, drills, rules, care of equipment, lead-up activities, and game situations. Good sportsmanship and team cooperation will be stressed. Team sports to be covered in this course will include kickball, soccer, and basketball.

TEAM SPORTS II

This course is designed for the student who is interested in investigating and developing skills in a variety of team sports. Emphasis will be placed on skills, drills, rules, care of equipment, lead-up activities, and game situations. Good sportsmanship and team cooperation will be stressed. Team sports to be covered in this course will include volleyball, speedball, and softball.

HEALTH

BASIC FIRST AID TRAINING

This course is designed to teach basic skills and knowledge necessary for children to identify potentially harmful situations, to be able to treat common injuries, and to respond in emergency situations.

MY WONDERFUL BODY MACHINE

One of nature's miracles is the human body. This course will introduce students to the different systems of the body and how they function together. Is the blood really blue? How does the body warn you of danger? These and other related topics will be explored.

SHAPING UP

Who's in control of having a healthy body? Aerobic exercises and nutritional education will enhance the awareness of what food and exercise can do for the body. Emphasis will be on weight control and acceptance of responsibility for one's self.

VISUAL ARTS

ART IN NATURE

Depicting plant and animal life through a variety of media will be the emphasis of this course. The study of animal and plant life will accompany each project.

ASTOUNDING ARTISTS

Through a study of astounding artists' lives and works, students will create their own "masterpieces" using a variety of art media and methods. Observing works of art by Vincent Van Gogh, Henri Matisse, Georgia O'Keeffe, and Georges Seurat will enable students to see and understand each artist's unique style.

CAN YOU BELIEVE YOUR EYES? - AG

The students will work toward an understanding of how the eyes and brain are involved in optical illusions. The students will create their own optical illusions using a wide variety of art media. The students will develop an appreciation of optical illusions as works of art.

CREATIVE COMPUTER ART

This elective will introduce students to the creation of art on the computer. Students will use their imagination and creativity to create art work that is abstract, realistic, and fun! The use of the art elements, art software, computer and related hardware will help students develop skills to create different projects. Projects will include using photos from the digital camera, making wacky portraits, and using the computer paint brush to produce paintings like those of Van Gogh or Matisse.

CREATIVE STITCHERY/WEAVING

Students will learn many different stitches for designing with yarn and burlap. Basic weaving techniques will be explored.

DRAWING AND PAINTING - GT

Exercises in drawing techniques will be experienced with an emphasis on the human figure, still life, and objects from nature. In painting, color theory will be emphasized. Students will incorporate their drawings into paintings.

HAND PUPPETRY

Students will study the history of hand puppets and make them using a variety of art materials. Methods of staging will be explored.

PAPER, SCISSORS, AND GLUE

Students will explore, develop, and use cut paper techniques to create original visual images. Experiences with two and three-dimensional projects will provide students with an in-depth awareness of paper's potential.

POTTERY

Explore and create with clay, one of the oldest art media known to man. Using slab-building, pinch pots, coil building, and sculpting techniques, students will create original pieces.

SCULPTURE

Students will explore art's three-dimensional form using paper, found objects, boxes, clay, and other media.

YOU GOTTA HAVE ART (BASIC ART)

This basic art survey course will include drawing, painting, cutting and pasting, modeling, and constructing.

MUSIC

VOCAL VIBRATIONS (CHORUS 3-5)

Students will learn to sing with comfort, accuracy, and a good tone. They will develop blend and ensemble skills and the ability to sing two-part harmony. Music studied will include a variety of styles and periods. Performance will be an expected part of this course.

FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA

This course explores the music of great American composers throughout history. Students will be involved with the music and familiar with the lives of composers who expressed their heritage through music.

HANDBELLS

This elective uses Choir chimes that are designed to be played easily by musicians of all ages. **Both Beginning and "Seasoned" ringers are welcome!**

KEYBOARD BY SIGHT AND SOUND I

In this course, the student will learn to play a keyboard instrument. Designed for students with no previous keyboard experience, the basic fundamentals of music and playing technique will be presented.

KEYBOARD BY SIGHT AND SOUND II

This course will be a continuation of KEYBOARD BY SIGHT AND SOUND I. More in-depth study of piano literature and correct playing technique will be emphasized. Solo and ensemble performance opportunities will be included.

“ORFF” KEY

This course provides “fun” while making music. Carl Orff developed an entire method of teaching music using this basic idea. Rhythmic and instrumental activities are combined with a variety of speaking, singing, and movement experiences to create a complete musical experience.

PATHWAY TO THE BAND I (YEAR-LONG)

Learn to play a musical instrument heard in a band. (Instruction should be scheduled for one instrument per class.)

1. Woodwinds - flute, clarinet, alto saxophone. Recommended to begin at grade four.
2. Brass - trumpet, trombone. Recommended to begin at grade four or five.
3. Percussion - bells (with mallets) and drums. Recommended to begin at grade four or five.

UNICORN BAND (PATHWAY TO THE BAND II) (YEAR-LONG)

This course will include instruction on woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments begun in PATHWAY TO THE BAND I. Emphasis will be on individual and group instruction. Solo and ensemble performances will be a vital part of this course.

PATHWAY TO THE ORCHESTRA I (YEAR-LONG)

Learn to play the violin, viola, or cello in this course.

PATHWAY TO THE ORCHESTRA II (YEAR-LONG)

This course will be a continuation of PATHWAY TO THE ORCHESTRA I. Emphasis will be placed on both individual and group instruction. Solo and ensemble performances will be encouraged.

RECORDER

Interested in playing a band or string instrument? This would be a great way to find out! Students will study basic musical elements and concepts through learning to play the soprano recorder. They will develop individual skills, play in ensemble with classmates, and explore a variety of compositions/arrangements for the recorder.

SOUNDS OF THE WORLD

Students will explore cultures of the world through music and musical instruments. An appreciation for a variety of musical styles will be fostered through exposure to music from all over the world and the creation of some unique and interesting musical instruments.

DRAMA

ACTING

In this course, students will participate in role-playing, scripted study, improvisation, and characterization. Teacher-guided study in voice, body movement, and concentration techniques will develop the actor's tools.

BEHIND THE SCENES

Students will explore a variety of technical aspects of the theater: makeup, costumes, sound, properties, scenery, and stage crafts.

CREATIVE DRAMATICS

Through use of the senses, voice, and body, students will learn to expand their own creativity. This course builds a good self-image and confidence for further study in theater.

MIME

In this course students will contribute original ideas in the development of mime skits and the study of nonverbal communication. Students will study simple story development involving beginning, middle, and end, as well as demonstrate sensory awareness in the use of pantomime. They will participate in the rehearsal and presentation of mime skits for selected audiences.

SPOTLIGHT ON MUSICAL THEATRE

This class is designed for the student who enjoys watching musicals and learning about how musical plays are made. Students will study many different types of musicals as well as the history of musical theatre. Some performance is required but the elective focus is on the creative process of making a musical than learning lines and songs to perform for an audience.

THEATER PRODUCTION AND PIECES OF GOLD

This is a course in which students will be expected to participate in the production of a play. Music, art, and drama come together in the creation of the play that will be performed for a live audience. Audition and recommendation by Music and/or Drama teacher.

WACKY MAKEUP AND CRAZY COSTUMES

This course is an introduction to the basic skills of making costumes and creating "makeup" for theater. Students will learn how creativity can take them beyond the boundaries of a makeup kit and sewing machine. Through the use of paper, glue, scraps, and everyday household items, students will create theatrical characters.

DANCE

AMERICAN FOLK DANCE

Students will explore various American folk dance forms including square, round, line, and clogging. Historical, cultural, and musical influences will be examined.

BALLET

This course is designed for students with a basic knowledge of ballet. As a continuation of INTRODUCTION TO BALLET, students will be given the opportunity to increase their knowledge of basic skills, terminology, choreography, and history.

BALLET – GT

A continuation of ballet technique for the student who has demonstrated competency in the fundamentals of ballet training will be the focus of this course. Permission of the teacher is needed to register for this class.

CREATIVE DANCE

Students will be offered an intensive study in the creative process of dance. This course will increase individual facility from movement improvisation to basic choreography.

CREATIVE DANCE - GT

This course is designed for students who have demonstrated a serious interest and skill in creative dance. Permission of the teacher is needed to register for this class.

DANCE ENSEMBLE

This semester long course is designed for students who want to continue their dance training. Focus is on dance technique and its relationship to choreography. A highlight will be a performance experience. DANCE ENSEMBLE is open to students who have completed at least two semesters of dance at the 3-5 level, or by permission of the teacher. *Recommended by Dance Specialist.*

HIP HOP JAZZ

Hip Hop is an exciting, new American dance style. We will explore the movement and musical style as well as the cultural roots of this dance style.

INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE

Folk dances from many countries will be studied. Students will gain an understanding of those cultures through movement, music, costumes, and holiday festivities.

INTRODUCTION TO BALLET

This course will introduce students to the basic skills and terminology of ballet. Students will develop strength, flexibility, self-discipline, and awareness of proper body placement. The historical values of classical and contemporary ballet styles will be introduced.

INTRODUCTION TO CREATIVE DANCE

Students will begin to discover their own creative potential and expand their movement vocabulary. A total experience is the goal for the student, rather than a particular style. Through the introduction of improvisational dance, students will become more aware of themselves as “movers” as well as decision-makers.

INTRODUCTION TO MODERN DANCE

This course will introduce students to the foundations of modern dance technique. They will develop a personal sense of the discipline of modern dance. The historical impact of modern dance as an art form will also be examined. Students will develop strength, flexibility, and proper body alignment.

INTRODUCTION TO TAP

This course is designed to give an introduction to the technique of tap dancing. The focus will be on rhythmic perception, balance, and coordination. A brief history of tap dance will also be introduced.

TAP

This course will increase rhythmic perception and skills gained in INTRODUCTION TO TAP. Improvisation and performance skills will be introduced.

TAP GT

Students will continue developing skills introduced in TAP. Permission of the teacher is needed to register for this class.

CONTEMPORARY ARTS

CHESS I

Students will study the fundamentals of chess, and time will be provided for them to develop beginning skills in the game.

FROM COOKBOOK TO CULTURE

The United States is considered the “Melting Pot” because so many different cultures have settled here. Through food preparation, students will discover what various ethnic cultures have contributed to our diet, table manners, eating habits and social customs.

TYPING: AN INTRODUCTION TO KEYBOARDING

Students will learn letter placement on the keyboard. They will learn proper keyboarding techniques which include correct hand position and posture. This course will allow them to acquire technical skills which can be adapted to a rapidly changing world. TYPING will also acquaint students with career development and help them acquire a lifelong skill.

MEDIA

IN SEARCH OF... - AG

Have you ever wondered how volcanoes erupt or where dinosaurs lived? What made FDR such a great president or why stars appear to twinkle in the sky? If so, IN SEARCH OF... is the class for you! In this in-depth research class students will be guided through topic selection, researching, note taking, outlining, and paper-writing. Emphasis will also be placed on project development and presentation.

READING FAVORITES

Students will assist in the selection of books to be read in this course. They will then read, share, and critique their all-time favorite books.

SCHOLASTIC PURSUIT

SCHOLASTIC PURSUIT reinforces the knowledge students have acquired throughout the elementary grades. Emphasis is placed on research, questioning, and listening skills. Students gather information to compete among themselves in mini academic contests. A team is finally chosen from this class to compete in a system wide academic tournament.

SHUTTER BUG

Students will learn the basics of photography through projects and experiences designed to help them discover how a camera works. They will also learn how to produce black and white photographs in a dark room. Projects will include developing negatives, making prints and learning to use a 35mm camera.

This course is an introduction to the basic principles of video and audio tape recorders. Students will help in developing a school television program production.

SUPER SLEUTH

Why do constellations appear in different parts of the sky during the year? What objects will a magnet attract? What causes rain, thunder, and lightning? In this course, students will discover the many resources of a library to help answer their questions. As detectives, they will explore the atlas, encyclopedia, Guinness Book of World Records, almanac, dictionary, thesaurus, and other media sources.

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