



7TH/8TH GRADE ELECTIVES DESCRIPTIONS 2023-2024

YEAR LONG COURSES

Band*

Intermediate Band is designed for 7th and 8th graders with previous experience on their chosen instrument. Students prepare standard band repertoire of a wide variety of styles and genres to perform at the Winter Concert and at Instrumental Night. Students may also be invited to participate in the Jazz Band and/or Pep Band, at the request of the Band Director. All method books and music are provided. *(Year)*

Chorus*

Chorus is offered to students who have a passion for singing and who want to perform in a co-ed choral ensemble. Students develop vocal skills and music reading ability. The repertoire covers a wide range of historical periods and styles, as well as degrees of difficulty. Members perform at the Winter Concert, in the Academy's all-school musical, at Cabaret Night, and in other community performances. *(Year)*

Strings*

Intermediate Strings is designed for 7th and 8th graders with previous experience on their chosen instrument. We will play a mix of classical and contemporary pieces, building our skill level to play with the Advanced Ensemble and the Academy Orchestra. Members perform at the Winter Concert, at Instrumental Night, and in other community performances. All method books and music are provided. *(Year)*

Theater*

Students will be guided through a journey of personal exploration using the crafts of acting, singing, and dancing. Students will gain confidence in solo performance and trust in ensemble performance through creative drama and musical exercises and techniques, culminating in opportunities to perform on-stage in a 7th/8th Grade fall production and/or the all-school musical in the spring. *(Year)*

Yearbook (Middle Division)*

This project-based class allows staffers to participate in the real-world planning, production, and distribution of the annual school yearbook. Training covers all aspects of creating a yearbook. Areas of study include theme creation, journalism fundamentals, ethics, interviewing skills, and writing. Also covered are photography fundamentals, photojournalism, design and layout fundamentals, and basic competency in Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop, and the publisher's online layout program. Staffers practice proofing, time management, team/staff collaboration, and potential leadership skills. Some staff also work with marketing and social media journalism/promotion. **Prerequisite:** Students must fill out an online staff application and be approved for the class by the advisor. You can e-mail Ms. Upmeyer with any questions at kupmeyer@academyatthelakes.org. *(Year)*

**Students who are participating in performance or yearbook electives may lose study hall time as performances or deadlines approach.*

SEMESTER LONG COURSES

Art

In this course, we will explore the fundamental elements and principles of art. We will be exploring each topic such as line, shape and value through projects that students will produce using a variety of mediums. Students will demonstrate their understanding of concepts through their artwork and some written work. At the end of the course, students will be able to use multiple techniques to produce artwork and express themselves creatively. *(Semester)*

Creative Writing

Students will read and write a variety of fiction styles such as poetry, narratives, and plays. In addition to studying different genres, students will also delve into developing aspects of effective storytelling and writing to include characterization, plot elements, and narration. The goal of creative writing is to allow students a safe, organized space to experiment and explore their writer's voice. *(Fall Semester only)*

Graphic Design & Marketing 1

This class is an introductory, project-based course exploring graphic design and marketing fundamentals. Students learn to communicate and problem-solve visually utilizing Design and Creative Thinking processes. Using industry-standard software Adobe Photoshop, students apply design principles, color theory, typography, and marketing fundamentals to create real-world deliverables. This class is a prerequisite for GD&M 2. A sketchbook and minimum equipment/technology requirements to run Adobe software are required. *(Fall Semester only)*

Graphic Design & Marketing 2

This course builds upon the content covered in MD Graphic Design & Marketing 1. Students continue learning industry-standard software from the Adobe Creative Cloud Suite, including but not limited to Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign. They conceive and produce various projects and continue expanding their marketing knowledge. Projects are frequently done for school events, allowing the students to experience real-world interactions with "clients" in creating deliverables for the school. **Prerequisite:** Completion of GD&M 1. A sketchbook and minimum equipment/technology requirements to run Adobe software are required. *(Spring Semester only)*

Film and Literature

In *Film and Literature*, students will learn the basics of filmmaking and author's craft before diving into several novels with film adaptations. We will first read the novel, examining the author's choices, then we will watch the film and do the same! Once both forms of media have been consumed, we will compare and contrast the stories and analyze the choices made in their creation. *(Suggested media- Between Shades of Gray by Ruta Sepetys, The Breadwinner by Deborah Ellis, The Book Thief by Marcus Zusak, The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins, The Giver by Lois Lowry)**(Spring Semester only)*

"Maker Ed" & Physical Computing

This project-based, hands-on course includes a wide variety of opportunities to "make" by using both high- and low-tech offerings. From sewing with conductive thread, creating a variety of circuits, fundamental building techniques, 3D printing and design, and more. We'll employ Design Thinking strategies to conceptualize, plan, design, create, and iterate. There will be opportunities for collaboration with peers, as well as options for connecting projects thematically to core classes. *(Spring Semester only)*

Recreational Reading

In Recreational Reading, students will engage in meaningful reading of their own choosing. Students will keep a journal that details what they read each day, making connections to their own lives and analyzing what elements of the novels they enjoy and which elements might make them unlikely to continue reading. *(Fall Semester only)*

Robotics

Working in teams, students will choose a real-world problem, research topics surrounding it, consult with experts in the field, and come up with an innovative solution. Additionally, students will design and engineer a mobile robot to navigate and complete missions on a robotics course. Students have the option to participate in the First Lego League Robotics Competition team. Through this, students will present their solutions, engineering, and programming to a panel of judges. This course requires a significant amount of collaborative group work, possible after-school meetings near the end of the semester, and two or more weekend events. *(Fall Semester only)*

The Wonderful World of Walt Disney

Delve into the magic of Disney and how the legacy has developed over the years. In this course, you'll explore Disney from old classic films to live action remakes. We will look into the many different types of Disney films – including animated, Pixar, and Marvel – to see how Disney has adapted over the years. We will analyze the reality of Pixar movies and the lessons learned from Disney films to make connections to the real world. *(Semester)*

Unplug 'n Unwind

We all need to unplug and disconnect at times. In this course, students will explore creative and relaxing activities that allow them to unplug and unwind. Under close supervision from the instructor, students will be introduced to a variety of pastimes that may include baking, sewing and needlework, yoga, meditating, painting, and journaling. *(Spring Semester only)*

Video Production

This course teaches students about the various elements that connect the control room and studio and how they work together as a broadcasting system. Students engage in several hands-on projects, including shooting and producing news segments and incorporating them into a school broadcast. *(Semester)*