

**KIRKLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
***ELECTIVE COURSES***  
**2012-2013**

**All Middle School Students** in the LWSD are required to complete one semester elective in the area of The Arts and one semester elective in the area of Life Skills. Students may take these two semester electives **any time during their three years** at Kirkland Middle School. Classes that meet these requirements are noted in the course catalog. (\*A) Arts, (\*LS) Life Skills.

**FINE ARTS**

All courses in Kirkland Middle School's art program are organized to develop the student's skills in the following five areas: art production, visual awareness, art history, art criticism, and art appreciation.

**GENERAL ART (\*A) GRADES 6, 7, 8: (1 SEMESTER)**

You too can be an artist!!!! Students will complete projects with an emphasis on creativity, imagination and the elements of design. A variety of projects will expand student talents, resourcefulness and abilities. Projects such as watercolors, pastels, drawing, cartooning, print making, collage, and multi-media will be explored. You will learn from the great artists of the past and apply that knowledge to your own work. If you want to experience a wide variety of art, this class is for you. There is a \$5.00 fee for this class.

**DRAWING AND PAINTING 1 (\*A) GRADES 6, 7, 8: (1 SEMESTER)**

Discover and develop the artist in you! Modeling (shading with respect to a light source) and color theory are emphasized in drawing and painting projects. Linear and atmospheric perspective techniques are also taught to create an illusion of depth in any subject matter. Proportion of facial features and rotation of the human head is explored and applied to portraits. Learn how to draw what you see and what you can imagine. Decorate your walls with your own creativity! There is a \$5.00 fee for this class.

**DRAWING AND PAINTING 2 (\*A) GRADES 6, 7, 8: (1 SEMESTER)**

This class is for students who have taken Drawing and Painting 1 Expand your artistic skills with teacher-directed, and self-directed projects. There is a \$5.00 fee for this class

**POTTERY (\*A) GRADES 6, 7, 8: (1 SEMESTER)**

Discover the magic of clay! Students will learn what this ancient and versatile material can offer an artist both in its durability and in its beauty. Students will use slab, press-mold, and coil construction to create several projects including coasters, a bell, a mug, a flower vase, a picture, a ceramic box, and other projects. We will also explore firing and glazing techniques. There is a \$15.00 lab fee for this course.

**ADVANCED POTTERY (\*A) GRADES 6, 7, 8: (1 SEMESTER)**

Prerequisite: Pottery

Continue your discovery of the beauty of clay. This class is for advanced students that want to learn more about ceramic art. Students will use slab, press-mold, coil construction and the

potter's wheel to create more complex and sophisticated projects. Instruction on firing and glazing techniques will also be reviewed. There is a \$15.00 lab fee for this course.

## **PERFORMING ARTS**

Here at KiMS, we offer a variety of performing arts courses that build confidence, poise, self expression, leadership and team building skills. Our music program supports learning at all levels, from beginning to advanced musicians. Students who are interested in trying out a new instrument or pursuing their American Idol dreams may enroll in the following courses: Chorus, Orchestra, Cadet Band, and Guitar. If you are a musician who has had previous experience please read the following course descriptions to find the class that best suits you. If you have any questions about course enrollment, please contact Mr. Michael Lundquist [mlundquist@lwsd.org](mailto:mlundquist@lwsd.org)

### **CADET BAND (\*A) GRADES 6, 7, 8: FULL YEAR (2 SEMESTERS)**

This course is appropriate for students who have previously participated in an elementary band or who would like to Start Playing a band instrument! Students of any grade level, who would like to start playing an instrument, may enroll with teacher permission. Assignments include playing tests, concerts, school and community performances, and written listening evaluations. Regular and consistent practice is an expectation of all performing group members. Class activities include full group rehearsals, sectionals, peer and self-critiques, and listening exercises. At the conclusion of this course, students will be able to: sight read Grade 1 wind band music, perform Grade 1.5-2.5 wind band music, recognize and exhibit skills used in a band ensemble, evaluate individual performance to aid improvement. Regular practice and concert attendance are required. If the student needs to rent an instrument from the school, a fee of \$75 is required.

### **CONCERT BAND (\*A) GRADE 7, 8: FULL YEAR (2 SEMESTERS)**

Members in this group should have previously participated in the Cadet Band, or should be selected by director permission. The Upper Level band is the culmination of the middle school band program. It is a continuation of previous experience in band, with emphasis on developing individual technical and listening skills, as well as ensemble skills through level appropriate literature. Students will have performing opportunities in large group concert, solo, and small ensemble music. Assignments include playing tests, concerts, school and community performances, and written listening evaluations. Regular and consistent practice is an expectation of all performing group members. Class activities include full group rehearsals, sectionals, peer and self-critiques, and listening exercises. At the conclusion of this course students will be able to: sight read Grade 2 wind band music, perform Grade 2.5-3 wind band music, evaluate individual performance to aid improvement, demonstrate leadership skills in rehearsal and sectionals. Regular practice and concert attendance are required. A fee of \$75 is required for school provided equipment.

### **JAZZ BAND (\*A) GRADES 7, 8: FULL YEAR (2 SEMESTERS)**

This course is a daily class that meets before school and is taken for credit. Membership is by audition and/or permission of director; suggested 1-2 years of previous experience on instrument. The Jazz Band is a performance group that concentrates on large jazz ensemble and improvisation skills. The study of jazz and related popular music styles of the past and present is also an element of the class. Assignments include playing tests, concerts, and listening evaluations/paper. Class activities include full group rehearsals, sectionals, peer and self-

critiques, and listening exercises. At the conclusion of this course students will be able to: sight read Grade 1.5-2 jazz band music, perform Grade 2-3 jazz band music, demonstrate basic skills in jazz improvisation, analyze and evaluate individual performance to aid improvement, understand and exhibit proper preparation and rehearsal skills of a musician. The Ensemble will perform in at least one concert per quarter and one festival per school year.

**GUITAR (\*A) GRADES 6, 7, 8: (1 SEMESTER)**

This class is for the beginning guitarist. In this class, the student will learn how to apply basic musical concepts, such as rhythm, harmony and melody, to the guitar. At the end of this class you will be able to read and play basic chord symbols and melodies. Students will provide their own classical guitar for this class, although a limited number of guitars are available from the school for student loan at a fee of \$35.00, (first come first serve).

**ADVANCED GUITAR (\*A) GRADES 6, 7, 8: (1 SEMESTER)**

This course is designed for the advanced guitarist. Participation in Beginning Guitar is a prerequisite for Advanced Guitar unless student can demonstrate sight reading skills and beginning theory. Teacher permission is required. Recital attendance is required. Students will provide their own acoustic guitar for this class although a limited number of guitars are available from the school for student loan at a fee of \$35.00, (first come first serve).

**CONCERT ORCHESTRA (\*A) GRADES 6, 7, 8: FULL YEAR (2 SEMESTERS)**

This course is appropriate for students who have previously participated in an elementary orchestra or who would like to start playing an instrument! Students of any grade level, who would like to start playing an instrument, may enroll with teacher permission. Intermediate concert music and instrumental technique will be emphasized as a means for developing the ability to think and learn, as well as to communicate and collaborate. Regular practice and concert attendance are required.

**CHAMBER ORCHESTRA (\*A) GRADES 7, 8: FULL YEAR (2 SEMESTERS)**

This course is designed for the advanced string player. Participation in the Concert Orchestra is a prerequisite for Chamber Orchestra unless the student can demonstrate basic sight-reading skill, beginning theory, and technical ability. Advanced concert music and instrumental technique will be emphasized as a means for developing the ability to think, learn, communicate and collaborate. Teacher permission is required. Concert attendance is required.

**CHORUS (\*A) GRADES 6, 7, 8: FULL YEAR (2 SEMESTERS)**

This course is designed for the beginning singer. The course will emphasize vocal production, beginning theory, sight-reading, and performance. Concert music and vocal technique will be used as a means for developing the ability to think, learn, communicate and collaborate. Concert attendance is required.

**SELECT CHOIR (\*A) GRADES 7, 8: FULL YEAR (2 SEMESTERS)**

This course is designed for the advanced singer. Participation in the Chorus class is a prerequisite for Select Choir unless student can demonstrate basic sight-reading skill, beginning theory, and vocal ability. Advanced concert music and vocal technique will be emphasized as a means for

developing the ability to think, learn, communicate and collaborate. Teacher permission is required. Concert attendance is required.

## **TECHNOLOGY**

The broad goal of Business Education/ Technology is to provide training with computer and design skills relevant to the personal needs of the middle school student.

### **COMPUTER APPLICATION SKILLS (\*LS) GRADES: 6, 7, 8, (1 SEMESTER)**

This introductory computer class will focus on learning how to use the computer more creatively and efficiently. The student will learn keyboarding skills and advanced techniques with all applications in the Microsoft Suite such as Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Internet Explorer, and Gimp. Students will also learn research skills involving the Internet and other electronic databases, and learn how to apply such skills to their other classes. This class is a prerequisite to any advanced computer class listed below.

### **ADVANCED MULTIMEDIA (\*LS) GRADES 6, 7, 8 (1 SEMESTER)**

Prerequisite: Multimedia Production Techniques or teacher approval

Students will be using new media to create animations, design games and create video for a multimedia and or web audience. Other topics may include designing for web consoles, handheld devices and being more literate in technology for mobile users. A \$10 lab fee is required for materials including software and some hardware.

### **DIGITAL PHOTO EDITING AND DESIGN FOR MULTIMEDIA (\*LS) GRADES 6, 7, 8 (1 SEMESTER)**

Prerequisites: Computer Application Skills or teacher approval

Students will learn the art of digital photography and digital image art. Time permitting students will also use these media types for credits in videos and images for DVD products. Students will be exploring logos, branding and current media technology for mass production as well. Students will be expected to take photos during the semester at after school activities so there will be some time outside of class as an expectation. Students can also expect to contribute to the Yearbook design as well. This class is geared toward enhancing abilities to use digital cameras during action photos, using the rule of thirds, lighting, and other advanced skills for photography. There will be a \$10 lab fee for course materials.

### **GAME DESIGN AND PROGRAMMING (\*LS) GRADES 6, 7, 8 (1 SEMESTER)**

Prerequisites: Computer Applications Skills (no exceptions)

Advanced knowledge of file structure, computer hardware elements and independent skill development will be integral to game building. Students will learn new coding skills and experiment with different software including Flash CS4, Multimedia Fusion, Scratch and Game Maker. Each semester we add on to the course and introduce new technologies that impact game designing, so the course may be slightly different each semester. The overall course content will focus on the quality of games and player feedback for improving elements, and having personal time management and integrity. There will be a \$10 lab fee for course materials.

## **ROBOTICS (\*LS) GRADES 6, 7, 8 (1 SEMESTER)**

Prerequisites: Computer Applications Skills

Students work in groups to program their robots to avoid walls, go to light sources and do additional exercises that demonstrate knowledge of coding principles. The hardware may be different but basic principles like team work, responsibility and resourcefulness are always useful in this course. There will be a \$10 lab fee for course materials.

## **WORLD LANGUAGE**

The World Language course offered at Kirkland Middle School is a high school level class. We follow the same curriculum and pace and use the same materials as the high school. Students who select this course need to have a strong grasp of the English language and possess solid study skills. World language students must commit to a minimum of thirty minutes of homework a day. This work will include both written assignments and daily study. Beginning courses encompass the basic skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Students will develop an appreciation of other cultures through increased global awareness.

## **SPANISH I (\*LS) GRADE 8: FULL YEAR (2 SEMESTERS)**

This course emphasizes pronunciation, listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. A study of the culture and history of Spanish speaking countries is included, as well as experiences with typical Spanish foods and films. This course meets the requirements for high school Spanish I.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION ELECTIVES**

### **PEAK PERFORMANCE (\*LS) GRADES 7, 8: (1 SEMESTER)**

This class will expose students to body conditioning, weight training, proper nutrition, anatomy and CPR. Emphasis will be put on proper use of all weight room equipment, stretching and exercise techniques. The class will examine the life long effects and the benefits of exercise on the heart. The class will individualize goals based on student need or activity.\*

### **TEAM SPORTS (\*LS) GRADES 7, 8: (1 SEMESTER)**

This class does not replace the required P.E. class, but is intended to be taken for further development of the required skills in soccer, speed-way, softball, flag football, basketball, team handball, floor hockey and volleyball.\*

\*The required uniform includes a KiMS Physical Education T-shirt (which can be purchased from the ASB window in the main office for \$5.00 each), shorts, socks, and tennis or athletic shoes.

## **SPEECH AND LITERACY**

### **SPEECH AND DEBATE (\*LS) GRADES 6, 7, 8: (1 SEMESTER)**

This class is an introduction to public speaking, speech forms (persuasive, informative, and extemporaneous), debate, and speech critique. Students will learn how to effectively argue, persuade, and inform. Speech techniques and different forms of speaking will also be introduced. Students will also learn techniques for group conflict resolution, non-verbal skills, interpersonal communication skills, and listening skills.

**NEWSPAPER PRODUCTION (\*LS) GRADES 6, 7, 8: (1 SEMESTER)**

Students in newspaper will be responsible for producing the school's newspaper, *The Panther Press*. They will be involved in all stages of news production: story writing, editing, computer layout, distribution, and editorial policy. Emphasis will be placed on First Amendment rights and the increased responsibility and self-motivation required in newspaper production. Students must be willing to commit to time after school, if necessary, to make deadlines, and be committed to high-quality writing. High grades in LA or LA teacher recommendation are strongly encouraged.

**ADDITIONAL ELECTIVES**

**LEADERSHIP (\*LS) GRADES 6, 7, 8: (1 SEMESTER)**

Choose to be a leader! This class offers students an opportunity to learn a variety of leadership styles and communication skills. Students will participate in different school and community groups. A key component to this class will be community service learning activities. Students are expected to demonstrate exemplary behavior in and out of the classroom.

**DRAMA (\*A) GRADES 6, 7, 8: (1 SEMESTER)**

Like to Act? Want to be a star? This class is for students who enjoy performing in front of peers. It is designed to help students express thoughts, feelings and ideas through various learning experiences. Students will participate in individual and group exercises with monologue, improvisation, story telling, skits and much more!

**IN CLASS – PEER TUTOR (\*LS) GRADE 6, 7, 8: (1 SEMESTER)**

*Prerequisite: Teacher signature required*

Peer Tutor is a one semester class for responsible students willing to be a positive role model and assist students in their classes. Students will be placed in classes according to their academic strengths.

**IN CLASS - MATH TUTOR (\*LS) Grade 7, 8: (1 SEMESTER)**

*Prerequisite: Math teacher's signature required*

Math Tutoring is a one semester class that gives students the opportunity to help other students in math by assisting in a Math class. Open to Discovering Algebra and Geometry students.

**PEER TUTORING (\*LS) / PEER TUTOR (\*LS) GRADE 7, 8: (1 SEMESTER)**

If you have trouble with homework, testing, and organization, this course will help you be a more successful student. Students will learn study skills to help with testing and homework while organizing time and materials. Peer tutors (when available) will act as study partners and will model their own "secrets to success". The supervising teacher monitors and instructs study skills and strategies as tutors and tutees work together on assignments and organization.