

MILL VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

6th Grade Electives

Sixth grade **Art** is a studio centered visual arts survey course giving students a wide breadth of experiences. Art making and creative self-expression are core to 6th grade curriculum. Aesthetics, art history, and art criticism are integrated into their creative process. Students have opportunities to work with a variety of materials and media in both two and three dimensional formats. Students will have the opportunity to experience ceramics, printmaking photography, drawing, painting and crafts among other mediums.

Orchestra is open to all 6th graders with at least one year of previous instruction on violin, viola, cello, or bass. In this class we learn and perform a variety of music, explore music theory, history, cover concepts of musicality and string sound, develop sight reading, and learn how to work together and rehearse as a string orchestra. This course includes public performances outside of school hours (calendar to be given at the beginning of the school year). At the end of the 6th grade year, students who elect to continue with orchestra will be placed in the Advanced 7th/8th grade orchestra class.

Band is open to all middle school students. Prior experience on an instrument is preferred, but not required to sign up for band. There are four bands at the middle school. The **Intermediate Band** is for first or second year players and is primarily for 6th grade students. There are also two advanced bands called **Concert Band** and **Symphonic Band**. Both of these groups are equal in ability and often perform together as one large ensemble. The instrumentation of each ensemble usually dictates which ensemble a student is placed in. There is also the **Jazz Band** which rehearses from 7:50 a.m.-8:30 a.m. on Mondays and Thursdays. A student must audition to become a member of the jazz band. The jazz band is also open to students who are not enrolled in the other school bands. In all of these classes, we will perform various styles of music from around the world, learn about music theory, history, and the fundamentals of playing an instrument. Each band will have several public performances throughout the year. The Concert Band, Symphonic Band and Jazz Band will also attend a music festival.

Chorus is open to any 6th grader who likes to sing and is willing to commit to a group performance effort. Participation in elementary school chorus is helpful, but not required to join the MVMS Choral Program. Students will learn choral music skills including diction, phrasing, dynamics, and producing a beautiful tone. Part-singing and sight-reading are also emphasized. A variety of literature in multiple languages and styles will be chosen at the conductor's discretion. Music will be challenging, but appropriate to the group's ability level. This course includes public performances outside of school hours (calendar to be given at the beginning of the school year.)