

MILL VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL
2021-2022 7th / 8th Grade Elective Descriptions

Seventh and eighth grade students are able to choose two different electives in their course schedule. Students will select one **Kiddo!** Art or Music elective and then one other elective offering. We offer Spanish, French, Digital Media, Drama, and Global Citizenship electives. All electives will meet four times each week. Parents and students should read the class descriptions and decide which elective choices would be most appropriate. Students will be enrolled in **ONE KIDDO Art or Music elective option and ONE** from: World Language, Digital Media, Drama, or Global Studies elective options. **Please select your top choice and an alternate choice for both (KIDDO and general) types of electives. Space is limited in many electives, and some require prerequisites, please read each description carefully.**

CHOOSE ONE FROM THE FOLLOWING ART OR MUSIC OPTIONS:

ART

Art – 7th Grade concentrates on the creative exploration of the elements of art: color, form, line, value, shape, space and texture. Students also learn the principles of design: balance, contrast, rhythm, unity, emphasis, pattern and movement. Students apply the elements and principles as they further explore a variety of media and techniques and expand upon knowledge gained from the K-6 art program.

Art – 8th Grade is based on in-depth studio based art projects. Students use their knowledge of art principles to create, invent, experiment, take risks and solve artistic problems. Students study art history and aesthetics, while expressing themselves in ceramics, printmaking, painting, drawing, and sculpture.

MUSIC

Chorus - Choral music students will develop sight-reading and ear training skills, proper vocal technique, and basic musical elements such as phrasing, dynamics, diction, and artistic expression. A variety of literature in multiple languages, styles, and eras will be chosen at the teacher's discretion. Repertoire will be challenging, but appropriate to the group's ability level. Although this is a one-year course, it is most successful for students (and the program) with a multi-year commitment (6th, 7th, and 8th grade). This course includes public performances outside of school hours (calendar to be given at the beginning of the school year).

***Advanced Band** - Band is open to any student with at least 1 year of playing experience. This class is designed to develop the musical skills of the student, foster an appreciation for music, promote teamwork and encourage all students to strive for excellence. There will be several performances during the school year. *Students interested in beginning an instrument should contact Mr. Carnahan directly at ccarnahan@mvschools.org.*

***Beginning Guitar** - Beginning Guitar is open to all MVMS students interested in playing the guitar. Students will learn to play chords, read sheet music (no tabs), and the fundamentals of

playing guitar. Students must provide their own six-string acoustic guitar for class (no electric guitars will be used in class, although they may be used at home). This class also covers the history of Rock and Roll and lineage of influential guitarists. There will be two performances during the school year. Space is limited for this elective.

***Orchestra** - Orchestra is open to all students with at least one year of previous instruction on violin, viola, cello or bass. In this class students 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. Students will be placed according to their skill level. This course includes public performances outside of school hours (calendar to be given at the beginning of the school year).

***All instrument classes require 20 minutes of independent practice per day and the student is responsible for transporting his/her instrument between home and school.**

CHOOSE ONE FROM THE FOLLOWING ELECTIVE OPTIONS:

Drama – 7th & 8th Grade This year long elective course will exercise your body (through pantomime), voice (through voice exercises, reader's theater, and speech), and mind (through

improvisation). Each trimester has a focus all its own that together will make you a more courageous and skilled performer and presenter. You will learn to be quick witted, whether it's pantomiming that you're a member of an orchestra, giving an impromptu speech on the existence of extraterrestrials, performing an improvisation of unlikely superheroes, or participating in multiple mini-performances throughout the year. This will be a safe and enriching learning experience. Open to the first 50 students who sign up.

Global Studies - 7th & 8th Grade: Interested in current issues and global events? Want to be part of a better world? If so, then this elective is for you! Explore what it means to be a global citizen and find out about events, human rights, and social justice topics that shape our world today. Different forms of conversation, including class meetings and discussion seminars are central to this dynamic class. Because this course values student voice and input, most assignments will be completed during class. Open to the first 28 students who sign up!

Spanish or French 1: The first year of middle school language classes are communication-based and aimed at the development of the four skills of language learning: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Frequent oral work in pairs and small groups will be used to reinforce acquisition of the new language. Students will also develop a sense of the cultural aspects of the target language. Homework is assigned most days and there will be projects that will be completed outside of class.

Spanish or French 2: Students who successfully complete Spanish 1/French 1 in 7th grade will proceed to Spanish 2/French 2 in 8th grade. This program is designed so that students who successfully complete the 2-year course of study at MVMS are eligible to enter the second year of Spanish 3/4 or French 3/4 as high school freshmen. However, this is not a required course to begin a World Language in high school, nor does it count for credit for college admission. Students who take a language class should have at least a 2.5 GPA overall (or talk to their counselor). A student must also have earned a C or better to continue with the year 2 of Spanish or French. Eighth grade students who wish to start Spanish 1 or French 1 in eighth grade, may do so, but will begin the Spanish or French language program in high school at the 1/2 level.

Digital Media 2 - 7th Grade: Digital Media 2 is an advanced technology course that consists of two sections: Lab and Engineering. Students spend an equal amount of time in both sections.

- **Lab** builds on the sixth grade Digital Media Wheel class. Digital Media 2 Lab students work on a range of digital projects such as mazes, surveys, podcasts, spreadsheets and movies. Examples of applications students explore include GarageBand, SketchUp, TinkerCad, Google Sheets and Forms, and Adobe Premiere. Students will have access to an Adobe license which will allow them access several Adobe programs (including Photoshop) on school computers, home computers, and student iPads

- **Engineering** students work collaboratively in teams to design, build, test and refine solutions to a variety of challenges. Students are engaged for much of the year on building and programming robots made with LEGO EV3 software and hardware to develop their understanding of engineering and programming concepts. There is an emphasis on critical thinking and working cooperatively in a team.

Digital Media 3 - 8th Grade: This class is open to ALL 8th graders, even if they did not take Digital Media 2. Digital Media 3 consists of two sections: Media and Digital Design and Engineering. Students will rotate between the two sections.

· **Media and Digital Design** students will work on digital art and visual communication projects, video production and storytelling. Students will develop and use their storytelling skills in off-site projects (Covid restrictions permitting) with the Redwoods Retirement Community and other Mill Valley community groups. Examples of applications students will use include, but are not limited to: Adobe Premiere, Photoshop, Illustrator. Students will have access to an Adobe license which will allow them access on school computers, home computers, and student iPads.

· **Engineering** students will be making, tinkering and engineering. Students will be given opportunities to design, experiment, build and invent. They will work individually and in collaborative groups to work through the design process and create fun builds using simple machines, basic circuitry and physical computing. Rube Goldberg Machines, design and program robots and other individually designed projects. (Covid restrictions permitting)

PLEASE NOTE:

- **Students who have an IEP may be scheduled for an Academic Support period instead of one of the electives.**
- **Electives have a limited space available in them as most are offered as a single section. Students will be selected on a first registered first served basis. Once a section closes, students will receive their 2nd choice option. If no 2nd choice option is chosen (e.g. student chooses the same elective for all options), we will select an elective for the student based on what is still available.**
- ***Students who would like to work as an Office Aide or Teacher's Aide instead of one of the above electives OR Art or Music elective should mark the box on the registration form and also make an appointment to meet with their counselor.***