

MILL VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL
2018 – 2019 SIXTH GRADE ELECTIVE DESCRIPTIONS

*Students choose **ONE** of the following courses as their sixth grade elective that will share a period with PE at middle school. Each of the elective courses below meets twice a week, alternating with their PE class that also meets twice a week. All other courses at the middle school meet four times per week (because of our rolling schedule).*

Art: Sixth grade art is a studio centered visual arts 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, drawing, and painting, among other mediums.

Chorus: Chorus is open to 6th graders who like to sing and are 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 music 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.) Space is limited for this elective.

World Music Ensemble: For the first time ever, incoming 6th graders will be offered their own World Music Ensemble elective class! This class will focus on traditional, intermediate-level West African rhythms and songs with an emphasis on polyrhythmic percussion. This class is part of the MVMS Choral Music Program, so be prepared to sing AND drum in class and in performance.

***Orchestra:** 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 continue with orchestra will be placed in the Advanced 7th/8th grade orchestra class.

***Intermediate Band:** Intermediate Band is open to all woodwind, brass, and percussion students with at least **one year** of instrumental 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 musical excellence. There will be several performances throughout the school year. *Students interested in beginning an instrument should contact Mr. Carnahan directly at ccarnahan@mvschools.org before signing up for Intermediate Band. Students interested in playing in the Jazz Band must be enrolled in the Intermediate Band.*

Music Technology 1: Music Technology 1 is a music appreciation class that teaches audio recording and composition. Students will learn how to compose music for film, write a pop/rock song, and compose a jingle to accompany a commercial. Students will be using GarageBand and iMovie on their school assigned iPads to complete these projects. No prior musical experience is required. (max 50 students)

***Beginning Guitar:** Beginning Guitar is open to all MVMS students interested in learning to play the guitar. Students will learn the fundamentals of playing the guitar, including how to read music (no tabs), and how to play chords. While we do spend a small amount of time learning to play pop and rock music, the focus of this class is on learning proper technique and how to read

standard notation sheet music. 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 discusses 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.

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