

**MILL VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL
2020-2021 SIXTH GRADE ELECTIVE DESCRIPTIONS**

*Students need to 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. All students are welcome to join, even if you weren't in elementary chorus. 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.)

World Music Ensemble: This class will be a 6th grade elective that focuses 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, as well as 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).

***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 explore GarageBand Live Loops, learn how to compose music for film, and write a pop/rock song. 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 in 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.**