

SUMMIT MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS – 2011-12
ALL ELECTIVES MEET EVERY OTHER DAY FOR ONE SEMESTER, UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED.

Physical Education: This course is designed to teach and encourage basic fitness and specific athletic skills. Students should benefit physically and enjoy the experience. P.E. is required all year for all grades every other day. Students may opt to take an additional P.E. in order to have it every day.

Health: To assist students in making responsible health decisions, this course provides information and opportunities for mature discussion on a wide range of health topics, including nutrition and fitness, stress and emotional health, drugs and life changes. This is a required course, strongly recommended to be taken during the 7th grade year.

Study Hall: Students have the opportunity to work on their own in a supervised study environment. May request every other day or daily (please note that we cannot guarantee every day study hall). If requesting daily, you don't need to also request every other day as this is our default if we are unable to give you every day study hall.

ART – Ms. Baruch

Advanced Ceramics: This class is for students who have already taken one semester of ceramics. We will explore sculptural ideas in clay, while continuing to develop your technical and artistic skills. Projects will be more self-directed with an emphasis on content. Deepen your knowledge, skill, and love of ceramics.

Art Forms: This class is an overview of the visual arts that incorporates a variety of mediums such as painting, ceramics, printmaking and sculpture. You will begin to learn the skills and vocabulary practiced in the more advanced art classes at Summit. With this variety of mediums you will learn to express yourself in both two and three dimensions. It is an exciting class--you will be exposed to so much in one semester! (Great 6th grade class!)

Ceramics: Inspired by famous sculptors, world cultures and contemporary artists, you will work with clay to create three dimensional works of wonder. You will learn basic hand-building techniques such as slab and coil construction, and pinch pots. Ceramic pieces are fired and glazed; you will also be introduced to wheel throwing. You can actually drink out of the mugs you make, eat out of the bowls, and put flowers in the pots!

Claymation (Clay Animation): Explore the history of Claymation from past to present through analysis of existing Claymation films, learn how to write a script, build your own characters, sets and work in small groups to complete your very own Claymation film.

Drawing and Cartooning: Learn how to draw in perspective and use shading so your pictures look three dimensional. You will create fantastical cityscapes and learn how to draw people. Materials will include pencil, colored pencil, pen and ink, charcoal, oil pastels, sculpting supplies and chalk. Later, we will focus on creating your own cartoon. Discover how cartoonists give life to their drawings and learn cartoon drawing skills as you go.

Graphic Design: Explore where the worlds of art and technology merge. Learn how to master Photoshop and discover how it can be used to create dynamic artwork. Create and use advanced drawing projects and see how graphics are used to communicate ideas to a specific audience. Projects include designing your own CD cover, inventing your own drink label, creating montages, manipulating photographs, and more.

Painting: Be inspired by the world's greatest artists! You will cover a variety of mediums and styles of painting based on new, unique or canonized artists. Learn techniques for acrylic and watercolor paints and all about color mixing, elements of design, and self-expression. Develop visual perception and the ability to transfer what you see onto paper. Projects include: portraiture, still life, landscapes, realistic painting and abstract painting.

Sculpture: Discover the world of three-dimensional art forms and explore the techniques, materials and methods of sculpture. Study artists from around the world for inspiration. You will work with a variety of materials including wire, plaster, clay, papier-mâché and found objects while using traditional and contemporary sculpture practices. If you like to build things, get your hands dirty and use your imagination then this is the class for you!

MUSIC – Mr. Baldwin (Instrumental) and Ms. Dozauer-Ray (Choral and Guitar) (All are year-long courses unless noted otherwise)

Band I: A class for students who have played a band instrument for at least one year. Students will be exposed to more advanced musical fundamentals (tone production, embouchure development, breath support, musical interpretation) – using appropriate method books and challenging band music. The study of music theory will be introduced periodically throughout the course. Improvement of each individual's musical talent will be the main focus of this class. Periodic performances will culminate each unit of study.

Beginning Guitar – (one semester): This class will introduce the basics of playing guitar using Will Schmidt's "Superbook." Students must have use of an acoustic classical or folk guitar. We will explore both melodic and basic chord playing. A limited number of guitars may be available for rental from BVSD for a small fee (see Ms. Dozauer-Ray) or students may rent from a local music store.

Concert Jazz Band: Audition mandatory: will be a combination of the current Concert Band class and a new offering, Jazz Band. The class will include mixed instrumentation and will rehearse and perform jazz-oriented music mixed with a few "concert band" styled selections. Jazz concepts of style, articulation, improvisation and ensemble playing will be emphasized. This class is open to 7th and 8th grade students who have played at least two years as well as advanced 6th grade students through audition.

Strings: A performance-oriented class for students who have played their orchestral string instrument (violin, viola, cello, contrabass) for at least one year, as well as for students with moderate levels of experience and musical understanding. Strings offers students the time and instruction to develop effective technique on their chosen instrument and to deepen their musical knowledge. Opportunities for advancement through progressively increased difficulty in part assignment and leadership roles are also provided.

Orchestra: Audition mandatory: Orchestra is for students who play a string orchestra instrument and who have attained a high level of technical proficiency, musical maturity, and musical understanding. Continued focus will be on musical fundamentals as well as refining musical skills (developing musicianship) as it relates to individual and group performance. A more advanced approach to ensemble playing will be emphasized using advanced method books and traditional arrangements/compositions. Periodic performances will be a major focus of this class.

Choir: Prerequisite: Love of music: Enjoy singing music from different cultures and languages as well as popular music. Emphasis is on learning to sing in one, two and three parts, good vocal technique and building skills for advanced choral performance. Students will gain experience with singing in ensemble, movement, and choreography. Repertoire may include madrigals, a cappella music, vocal jazz, and show tunes.

Silver Rain: Audition mandatory: Requires excellent music reading and vocal skills. Continue developing the highest level choral ensemble skills with a broad variety of music. Activities include advanced reading and singing, a cappella music, show choir choreography, solo opportunities, and performances in the community.

TECHNOLOGY

***Computer Power – Ms. Baruch:** See the power of today's technology! You will gain experience with several software programs to create brochures, posters, newsletter, flyers, outlines, memos, letters, timelines, reports, agendas, tables, lists, drawings, presentations, spreadsheets, charts, graphs, database files, and merged documents. Students will learn efficient ways to use the Internet and organize bookmarks when doing projects for other classes. The use of digital cameras and scanners will be introduced. This course is a recommended prerequisite to all other computing courses. This elective helps meet high school requirements for Technology and Practical Science.

***Exploring Computers – Ms. Spangler:** This course is designed to introduce students to the variety of technology tools available at Summit and teach them how to use them efficiently to be successful in their school assignments. The class will learn the fundamentals of using hardware and software available at Summit, including basic troubleshooting. Students will also become proficient in keyboarding, using Microsoft Word, creating charts and graphs in Excel, and designing engaging Powerpoint presentations. This class will also help students move beyond the basics to include images from the internet in their projects and other tips and skills they can use throughout their years at Summit and beyond.

***Multimedia Productions – TBD:** Students will design and produce multimedia presentations that incorporate text, graphics, sound, and animation. Software tools may include PowerPoint, Web Page tools, or Timeliner. Students will also learn to modify digital images and Internet images for use in presentations. Presentations may also include Internet links, re-sized images, and imported documents such as charts or graphs. This elective helps meet high school requirements for Technology and Practical Science.

*Technology electives with an asterisk help meet high school requirements for Technology and Practical Science.

LIBERAL ARTS

Creative Writing – Ms. Laub: Do you enjoy writing poetry and fiction? Do you want to learn more about perfecting your craft as a writer? If so, join other like-minded students for this semester-long elective. You will write, revise, and publish original poems and stories. You'll also have a chance to meet some writers and learn about the writing life.

Drama – Ms. Dozauer-Ray: Students will explore the basics of theatrical concepts such as improvisation, movement styles, readers' theatre, pantomime, musical theatre, ensemble work ethic, character development, and audition preparation. The class will NOT culminate in a final formal evening performance, rather students will prepare a number of smaller in-class performances as they focus on various aspects of the theatre.