

ARTS DEPARTMENT

Middle School Arts Requirements
2020–2021

Middle School students take nine classes in the Arts each year, three per term. Detailed below are the requirements that will ensure an appropriate balance among the four disciplines. To fill any remaining space in their schedule, students may choose any class in any of the four disciplines.

ARTS REQUIREMENTS BY GRADE

Grade Six	Visual Art	One class per year
	Music	World Music and one other music class
	Woodworking	One class per year
	Drama/Technology	Two drama or technology classes per year
Grade Seven	Visual Art	Art History plus one other visual arts class per year
	Music	One class per year
	Woodworking	One class per year
	Drama/Technology	Two drama or technology classes per year
Grade Eight	Visual Art	One class per year
	Music	One class per year
	Woodworking	One class per year
	Drama/Technology	Smooth Talk plus one drama or technology class per year

SCHEDULING AND COURSE CHANGES

We try to accommodate a student's first, second, third, or fourth choice. However, due to class size and the need to achieve an appropriate balance among the four disciplines, a student may be placed in a class he or she did not choose. A student may request a course change during the first week of a term, however, any changes will be made at the discretion of the Director of Arts.

SIGN UP ONLINE

This year, you can sign up for courses online: <https://bit.ly/2020-21MSArtsForm>

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DRAMA

LET'S DANCE AND LET'S ACTMs. SIDOLI

Let's Dance and Let's Act is a fun dancing and acting course. Students will learn jazz and ballet dance and choreography techniques. The course will also allow students to develop their acting skills, and they will participate in many drama games and role-playing exercises as they develop improvisation skills. In addition, students will create their own sketches, skits, and mini-plays. Students will perform a dance or scenes from a play in a final performance.

DIRECTOR'S CUTMs. SIDOLI

This course is an introduction to the skills needed to become a director. Students will watch scenes from famous movies and critique the work of such well known directors as George Lucas and Steven Spielberg. Students will have the opportunity to direct scenes from plays and to create storyboards for a movie idea. There will also be the opportunity to act in directed scenes.

SMOOTH TALKMs. SIDOLI AND MR. EDIE

This course will give Eighth Grade students the opportunity to take an advanced public speaking course that is specifically geared towards the leaders of our school. Students will write and perform a speech, take part in group debates, develop vocal skills, and learn drama exercises. The course will help students gain confidence for their final year at DCD, and for their life outside our school.

PLEASE NOTE: This course is required for all Eighth Graders

CLASS PLAY GRADE: ACTING 6, 7, AND 8Ms. SIDOLI

Students in Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Grades who have chosen to act in their class play will have the exciting opportunity to learn speaking roles, develop acting skills, and put on a full production of a play. Students who wish to act should be willing to accept a role that contributes to an authentic theatrical experience.

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WOODWORKING

SPOON CARVING

Ms. LEVI

Hand-carved spoons are works of sculpture as much as they are utilitarian utensils in a kitchen. Students will rive sections of cherry wood from logs and learn to work with the natural contours that come from rived stock. A wide array of specialized hand tools will be used as each student goes about the work of capturing unique and graceful lines in their spoon. By the end of the term, these whimsical pieces will have seemed to take on a personality of their own.

BOX CREATION & INLAY

Ms. LEVI

Have things you'd like to stow away in a special place? Make a box and learn how to make various types of finger joints, even a dovetail or splined miter joint. We'll be adding interior hinges and inlaid tops. Top designs can include imagery of the student's choice and can include several types of wood. We will use the scroll saw as well as learn about how to make our own 'jigs' to cut joints.

HAND-CARVED BOWL

Ms. LEVI

This course will focus on the making of small hand-carved bowls and the design aspects that make them pleasing to the eye. We will use the Scandanavian "Kuksa" as inspiration for our work and discuss the traditional carving methods used by the Swiss and Finnish to carve birch bowls and cups. Students will have a choice amongst a wide array of locally harvested wood. We will discuss the process from harvest to finish and focus on the joys of green wood carving. A large number of gouges will be used in the carving out of the bowls and both paint and oil finishes will be discussed and presented for possible use.

KITCHEN TOOL DESIGN

Ms. LEVI

This course takes spoon carving to the next level and provides an opportunity to enrich every meal with a handmade object. Students will craft a "kitchen tool" of their choice. Options may include forks, salad tongs, ladles, stirring spoons, butter knives, and any tool students dream up. They will create drafts and full-scale sketches of their tool, choose their wood based on its' function, create, and complete the tool with a food-safe finish.

SERVICE WOODWORKING

Ms. LEVI

In this new course, students will work on a service-related project. This may range from flipping unused or old furniture to building a project for the DCD community or helping out with designing infrastructure for a local farm (vegetable boxes and stands, for example). Ms. Levi will provide project ideas as well. The course will allow students choice in their project, pushing them to plan ahead and consider what will work in the allotted time frame as well as to consider cost calculation and labor aspects of a given project. Students may work together and emphasis will be on how woodworking can be applied in real-world settings to help others.

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Ms. LEVI

Make your own wooden puzzle! In this course, students will create a wooden puzzle of their choice. Puzzle options include an “O-C-C” puzzle, burr puzzles, sliding puzzles, or jigsaw puzzles. A baseline design will be offered, and from there, students can decide what level of complexity they would like to take on. This sequence of lessons teaches the skills of toy design, joinery, precise measuring, making identical cuts, and choosing the right finish. Various types of wood and finishes will be offered and puzzles may be painted or decorated.

RUSTIC BENCH

Ms. LEVI

Students will learn aspects of crafting a bench utilizing branches for the bench frame and ‘live edge’ planks of different local species of wood for the top. We’ll be mastering the mortise and tenon joint as well as learning about the various types of the joint such as ‘blind’ and ‘through.’ Wood will be harvested from both the DCD campus and other local forests. There is a possibility, weather dependent, for students to harvest wood themselves and learn about the art of “coppicing” branches.

LAMP MAKING

Ms. LEVI

During this course students will make wooden lamps, thinking about lamps as sculptural works. As an optional baseline for the course, we will be using a design for a louvered lamp that has been made at the Park School woodshop with Dean Laabs and has been adapted to suit the DCD shop. This lamp will have a spinning centerpiece that projects patterned shadows and light around the room as it slowly rotates. Students will be able to adapt this design to their ability level and vision or make their own design for a lamp and/or shade using varying materials.

CARVING

Ms. LEVI

During this course, we will examine what woods carve particularly well as well as what makes sound design and the right finish for a carving. We will discuss the Janka hardness rating for types of wood and talk about how to choose the right wood for any given design. Various chisels will be examined and chisel profiles discussed to understand how to best utilize them. Once work begins, students will learn several basic carving techniques as they work on a chip carving, relief, or incise letter carvings. Whittling will also be offered. Projects might include a small figure or animal, a name, or a simple geometric pattern.

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VISUAL ART

CERAMIC PLATTERS

MR. COAKLEY

Students will learn to use traditional hand-building techniques to create a wide array of functional platters. Pieces will be finished with colorful, high fired glazes.

PRINTMAKING

MR. COAKLEY

Students will use a variety of printing techniques to produce work on paper, cloth, and clay. Experimentation with composition and color will be encouraged. Periodic critiques will help refine composition and technique.

ART HISTORY

MR. COAKLEY

In this course, students will be introduced to several eras in the history of art. Students will begin to learn how to look at and discuss works of art. PowerPoint presentations will allow us to study the lives and work of famous artists in history. Time will also be spent in the studio using techniques of the artists studied to create original works. **PLEASE NOTE: This course is required for all Seventh Graders.**

CERAMICS

MR. COAKLEY

Students will use hand-building techniques to construct ceramic pieces of varying sizes. Students will start small to become adept with the skills necessary to produce a successful piece and then progress to larger forms. Students will also have to opportunity to work on the potter's wheel to create simple, functional pottery. A variety of methods will be used to finish the fired pots.

DRAWING

MRS. EUTEMEY

The emphasis in this class will be on skill building: observational skills, physical skills and your powers of imagination. Various exercises will teach concepts such as contour, value, composition, perspective, pattern and texture, facial and body proportions, positive and negative space. We will use a range of mark-making materials.

ARTIST BOOKS

MRS. EUTEMEY

Students will create several folded forms (Origami and Flexagons) that will be the basis for their books. They will have an opportunity to draw, paint and use collage methods to complete their series of books.

FIBERS

MRS. EUTEMEY

Students will learn different ways of working with fibers. They will practice flat and circular weaving and will learn how to coil baskets. Students can choose to work with natural materials, as well. After learning the basics, students will be able to focus and expand on one method for a final project.

PRINTMAKING

MRS. EUTEMEY

In this class, there will be a heavy emphasis on the design process. Safe cutting techniques will be stressed. Students will be able to focus on building their print portfolios using imaginative approaches to printmaking.

SET DESIGN

MRS. EUTEMEY

Be a part of the team that designs and creates scenery and props for DCD's famous productions! You will cooperate with classmates to design and create whatever is needed to transform the stage into a professional theatrical setting for a class play.

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ARTISTS TRADING CARDS AND OTHER MINIATURES

MRS. EUTEMEY

Students will learn about the origin of Artist Trading Cards. They will develop several editions using various art methods, including drawing, painting, mixed media work and hand sewing.

WATERCOLORS

MRS. EUTEMEY

In this class, we will learn about layering washes of color to create interesting textures and various tonal ranges. Students will learn how to mix colors and different water-based media to express a range of feelings with this versatile material.

GRAPHIC DESIGN

MR. FERNANDES

Students will learn how to create electronic and paper publications with the use of GIMP (GNU Image Manipulation Program). During the course students will adhere to various electronic and print production standards. By the end of the term, students will produce simulated DCD promotional material in electronic and print form.

KNITTING

MS. WEBSTER

In this class, students will be introduced to the fundamentals of knitting. After learning some basic techniques, students will design and knit a hat. The remaining time in the class will be spent pursuing an independent project.

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MUSIC

SOUND SCULPTURE

Ms. LIEN AND MR. THACHER

Using primarily acoustic instruments and sound sources (both traditional and spontaneous), students will learn to create composed and improvised works. Emphasis will be placed on using mood and texture to create expressive and evocative pieces. Students will listen and respond to a variety of contemporary musical examples. Using recording software on their laptops, students will record and edit their work. No instrumental proficiency or experience is required to participate.

MUSIC, KEYBOARDS, AND COMPUTERS

Ms. LIEN

Using MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface) instruments and sequencing/notation software, this course brings technology and music together. Working with MIDI keyboards, students will create original compositions using the computer. They will learn to create a melody, produce effective accompaniment, and refine and edit their compositions. No previous keyboard or instrumental experience is necessary.

DCD BAND

Ms. LIEN

Band offers dedicated and experienced instrumentalists an ensemble experience where they can expand and hone their musical skills. Drawing on repertoire from blues, jazz, and pop/rock literatures, this course will allow students to learn and perform music in a range of styles while developing reading, listening, and ensemble/performance skills. The repertoire will be accessible yet challenging. Students are expected to devote regular outside-of-class practice time to preparing for rehearsals and performances. The band will perform in various holiday and performing arts programs throughout the year.

PLEASE NOTE: Students are expected to participate in all three terms.

WORLD MUSIC

Ms. LIEN

Like people, music comes in all shapes, sizes, colors, and textures. In this course, students will listen to music from a wide variety of styles and cultures; learn how music functions in different cultures, societies, and settings; and determine how music from other cultures has influenced the music we listen to today. Students will discover that music has a powerful influence on people and is an important part of every culture on earth.

PLEASE NOTE: This course is required for all Sixth Graders

SOUNDTRACKS

Ms. LIEN

A good soundtrack can add enormous impact to the effectiveness of a film, radio broadcast, or even a static image. A well-crafted soundtrack has the capacity to deepen the effect of a scene and bring certain aspects of a story into sharper focus. In this class, students will study various types of soundtracks where original music is particularly effective. They will examine the role of storyline, musical characterization, and the qualities that enable music to enhance a particular scene. Using sequencing, sound editing, and video software, students will create original soundtracks to accompany film/animation clips and storylines.

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

Ms. LIEN

Boom-ba-da-bing! Percussion Ensemble allows you to try your hand at a range of percussion instruments. We will use mallets, latin percussion, hand drums, and traditional concert percussion to create a colorful blend of rhythm. Prior experience is not necessary but may be helpful.

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INTRODUCTION TO ACOUSTIC GUITAR

MR. MILLER

Students will be introduced to basic chord progressions, note reading, and the music theory behind learning to play guitar. Knowledge of reading music is not required. Each student will be given a variety of songs to practice, sing, and play. School-owned acoustic guitars will be loaned to each student for the term. Practicing is considered homework and is a requirement of the course.

INTRODUCTION TO UKULELE

MR. MILLER

Students will be introduced to basic chord progressions, note reading, and the music theory behind learning to play ukulele. Knowledge of reading music is not required. Each student will be given a variety of songs to practice, sing, and play. School-owned ukulele will be loaned to each student for the term. Practicing is considered homework and is a requirement of the course.

INTRODUCTION TO A CAPELLA

MR. REARDON

Those looking to sing for one term will find this class fun and rewarding. Students will learn the basics of singing in a group without accompanying instruments. This newly formed group will find informal opportunities to perform throughout the term.

CHORUS

TBA

The Chorus is a performing group that meets for three consecutive terms. Students choosing to participate must do so for all three terms. This group is a Middle School elective for students wishing to learn more about singing and performing. Singers of all abilities are welcome to join. The overall objective is for students to learn to work together while creating music. Suitable vocal repertoire will be introduced, which will incorporate multiple themes, genres, and traditions. Students who choose to sing in the chorus are expected to participate in all three performances.

PERFORMANCES FOR EACH TERM:

- Fall Term: Thanksgiving Assembly
- Winter Term: Holiday Assembly
- Spring Term: Visual and Performing Arts Assembly

Please note: Concert dress is a requirement for all performances, unless otherwise noted.

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TECHNOLOGY

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Ms. TRAN

In digital photography, students will learn the technical aspects of using a digital camera on manual. They will focus on compositional elements and practice capturing the world from a different perspective. They will be encouraged to create work that expresses and evokes emotion. Students will be able to share their work with the class biweekly and learn how to give and receive constructive criticism.

CINEMATOGRAPHY

Ms. TRAN

Students will work together to create a cohesive film on a subject of the groups' choosing. Students will create storyboards and look at cinematic examples for inspiration. Working in production "teams" to complete individual story chapters, we'll utilize film techniques as the "rule of thirds," effective microphone placement, and perspective to create a cohesive finished piece. Students will then showcase their short films to the class.

PHOTOSHOP

Ms. TRAN

This course teaches students to manipulate digital images using Photoshop, a powerful graphic tool that can be used to enhance desktop publishing, hypermedia, or Web sites. Students will learn the tools of Photoshop to edit and create images.

ENVIRONMENTAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Ms. TRAN

Students will learn about photographing landscape and macro to capture the essence of nature and manmade structures. We will reference other nature photographers and practice their techniques. We focus on utilizing natural light and being aware of our environment. Students will learn alternative ways of capturing imagery.

PHOTOGRAPHY PORTFOLIO

Ms. TRAN

Prior knowledge to using a digital dslr camera is not necessary but is encouraged. In photography portfolio, students will develop their own theme or storyline that they will focus on for the term. Students will learn how to create a cohesive body of work that will tell their story and receive feedback on how to improve the work. They will learn the importance of sequencing and presentation and artist statements.

POP ART

Ms. TRAN

Students will learn about the pop art movement. Students will challenge the traditions of fine art by including imagery from popular and mass culture. We will create work that mimics iconic pop art using imagery from multiple media sources and merging with other images or with our own original photographs. Students will produce colorful work inspired by everyday items, consumer goods, and mass media messaging and imagery.

COMMERCIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Ms. TRAN

Students will learn how to take product photos and studio portraits. Students will experiment with studio equipment such as lighting, filters, and a backdrop. Students will be challenged to create magazine covers and fashion photos.

WEARABLE ART

Ms. REARDON

In this class, students engage in the design process to create their own wearable technology. We will focus on textile and fashion, looking at topics such as 3D printing, augmented reality, internet of things, sensors, circuitry, coding and programming.

MOLDING AND CASTING

MR. FERNANDES

Students will learn how to create digital 3D artwork and print their designs with 3D printers. Once their models are printed, students will create silicone molds and cast their creations using cement.