

GENERAL ELECTIVES

Sixth & Seventh Grade Electives

Students may take two semester electives in sixth grade and two semester electives in seventh grade. The elective courses offered will depend on enrollment and staffing, to be determined in the late spring.

Art (semester) (Grades 6 & 7)

Students investigate the arts and crafts of other cultures, identify art careers, heighten their sensitivity to the environment, and apply criteria for recognizing quality in works of art. Students learn to incorporate themes and subjects from various cultures, historical periods, and daily life in their work and they become aware of the interdisciplinary connections between art and other subjects.

Information and Communication Technology 1 & 2 (Semester) (Grade 6 – session 1) (Grade 7 –session 2)

In this course, students use technology in a rigorous inquiry- and project-based learning environment that promotes relevance and engagement. Students acquire knowledge and skill sets connected to grade 6 content areas involving the use of application, web-based, and multimedia tools. Programming concepts will be applied to the development of games, educational simulations, and robotic products. The application of computer aided drafting and design and graphics software will be used to communicate 2-D and 3-D designs. Students will acquire website development skills and digital art concepts to create a portfolio. The completion of this course prepares students to follow middle school pathways that lead to high school credit courses in grade 8. Course outcomes are based on the *Maryland Technology Literacy Standards for Grades Pre-K-8* and the Maryland State Department of Education Voluntary State Curriculum for technology education.

Web Site Development Fundamentals - Grade 7 (semester)

The course is a prerequisite for enrolling in Foundations in Arts, Humanities, Media, and Communication A/B in grade 8. The effective and efficient use of the Web as a source for sharing information has become critical to success in both the academic and professional worlds. This hands-on course will provide students an opportunity to create their own websites adding complexity as the course progresses. Student skill development will progress from one-dimensional web pages to sites that are interactive and include animation. A variety of software and technology tools will be incorporated throughout the course.

Lights, Camera, Literacy – Grades 6 & 7 (semester) (Grade 6 – session 1) (Grade 7 – session 2) [Prerequisite session 1]

Lights, Camera, Literacy increases literacy in both written and visual text, improves collaboration skills, builds confidence and motivation, and provides opportunities for high level thinking via specific strategies. Students will transfer their skills as viewers of film to skills on the written page, as well as learn how to read visual text and create effective visual communications. The course focuses on all three areas of the MCPS Moving Image Education: integrating, deconstructing, and creating the moving image. Students will then transfer reading skills such as interference from screen to script to page to book. They will use critical thinking skills and explore new vocabulary in the areas of lexicography, chess and film. Students will deconstruct information at the literacy, dramatic, and cinematic levels. Throughout the course, students will reflect on their learning through student to student discourse and journal writing. They will work collaboratively to apply the various skills and use technology to produce an authentic product, a short film.

World Beat Music - Grades 6 & 7 (semester)

Students will explore the many styles and genres of music from around the world through singing, movement, instrument playing and listening. Comparing and contrasting the musical elements of melody, harmony, rhythm and form from areas of the world such as Africa, Asia, and Latin America will be included.