

Flett Middle School – Elective Course Descriptions

6th Grade Electives

ART

Art 6 – Semester Long: Students of all abilities will learn and apply the elements and principles of design by using a variety of media. Creativity will be developed through the use of visual art techniques. Students explore the elements of art: line, shape, form, space, texture, pattern, color, value, composition, balance, emphasis, proportion, repetition and variety through differing media. Students use chalks, pastels, pencils, ink, glazes, recycled materials as well as fabrics, clay, and mosaic tiles. Students explore works from different artists and discover how a love and appreciation of applied arts can transfer into a variety of rewarding career choices and therapeutic hobbies.

STEM (Science/Technology/Engineering/Math)

Career Exploratory – Semester Long: This class is designed to strengthen student's computer skills in Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Excel as well as keyboarding. They will explore career clusters related to the different CTE pathways connected to elective classes in 7th and 8th grade and high school. They will create different hands-on projects related to animation, engineering, coding, and robotics as well as create presentations using different programs.

MUSIC

Introduction to Orchestra – Full Year: This class is for students who would like to learn to play a stringed instrument. Instruments are available through the school for a small annual fee. Participation requires a commitment to performing both in class and outside of the school day.

Introduction to Band – Full Year: This class is for students who would like to learn to play a brass, woodwind or percussion instrument. Instruments are available through the school for a small annual fee. Participation requires a commitment to performing both in class and outside of the school day.

Introduction to Choir – Full Year: This class is for students who would like to sing and learn basic vocal skills. No previous experience is necessary. Participation requires a commitment to performing both in class and outside of the school day.

OTHER

World Language Exploratory – Semester Long: Students will be introduced to several world languages and cultures. They will learn everyday vocabulary and examine the culture of the people who speak the languages.

6th Grade AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) – Full Year: A 6th through twelfth grade program that prepares students in the academic middle for admission to a four-year college or university. The core component of the AVID Program is the AVID elective, which supports students as they challenge themselves in more rigorous classes. Students are taught study skills, note taking, time management, writing and research skills, while being immersed in a college-going culture. The class also includes tutoring sessions that are led by college students and provide support for success in the academically rigorous curriculum. For more than 35 years AVID has been instrumental in preparing students for success in higher education. **Pre-Requisite:** Application and Interview Required

7th and 8th Grade Electives

ART

Art 1 - One Semester: Students of all abilities will learn and apply the elements and principles of design by using a variety of 2D media that may include: color pencil, pen, charcoal, pastels, pencil, watercolor, tempera and acrylic paints. Creativity will be developed through visual art techniques in painting, drawing and collage. The foundations of aesthetics, criticism and art history will also be explored. (No prerequisite required – can be repeated yearly)

Art 2 – One Semester: Students of all abilities will learn and apply the elements and principles of design by using a variety of media. Creativity will be developed using visual art techniques. Students explore the elements of art: Line, Shape, Form, Space, Texture, Pattern, Color, Value, Composition, Balance, Emphasis, Proportion, Repetition, and Variety, through differing media. Students use chalks, pastels, pencils, ink, glazes, recycled materials as well as fabrics, clay, and mosaic tiles. Students explore works from different artists and discover how a love and appreciation of applied arts can transfer into a variety of rewarding career choices and therapeutic hobbies.

Art – Full Year: Students of all abilities will learn and apply the elements and principles of design by using a variety of media. Creativity will be developed through visual art techniques. The foundations of aesthetics, criticism and art history will also be explored.

STEM (Science/Technology/Engineering/Math)

Automation and Robotics – One Semester: Students trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Students use the VEX Robotics® platform to design, build, and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, toll booths, and robotic arms.

Design & Modeling (Pre-Engineering) – One Semester: An introductory course in 3D modeling and Engineering. Students will develop an understanding of the engineering design process through hands-on, exploratory experiences. Completing group and individual projects using both 3D modeling software and the woodshop, they will learn about the engineering design process. Students will define, brainstorm, research, prototype, test and refine designs. Students will track their budget for the semester and learn how to operate hand and power tools, safely and effectively, while constructing solutions to their design challenges. Students develop skills in communicating design information and reporting results. *Prerequisites:* None

Innovators & Makers (Computer Science) - One Semester: An introductory course to Computer Science where students will use block coding to program a Micro: bit. Throughout the unit, students will learn about programming for the physical world by blending hardware design and software development. Students will learn about the basics of computer science as they learn to program inputs and outputs in physical computing projects using different types of materials. Students will get to design, develop, and program a system to protect safes and secrets as well as pick a final project where they showcase what they have learned.

Media Production - One Semester: This class is designed to introduce students to photography, graphic design, cinematography and stop motion animation. Students will work with a variety of technology including computers, drawing tablets, DSLR cameras, and video cameras to produce different types of media. Students will learn how to use Adobe editing programs for photos and video to create different types of projects.

Medical Detectives – One Semester: Students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they analyze genetic testing results to diagnose disease and study DNA evidence found at a “crime scene.” They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, investigate how to measure and interpret vital signs, and learn how the systems of the human body work together to maintain health.

MUSIC

Intermediate Band – Full Year: This band consists of students who have previous experience playing a brass, woodwind or percussion instrument. Students will get the chance to improve on their instrument while emphasizing the basics of proper techniques. This class is part of the parade marching band in the spring and members can also be in the specialty ensembles, such as jazz band. Practice at home is required in order to be at performance level. Participation requires a commitment to performing both in class and outside of the school day. There are possible fees for uniform cleaning and/or instrument rental that may be charged.

Advanced Band – Full Year: This band consists of students who have previous experience playing a brass, woodwind or percussion instrument. Students will get a chance to sharpen their instrumental skills through challenging music and performances. This class is part of the parade marching band in the spring and members can also be in the specialty ensembles, such as jazz band. Practice at home is required in order to be at performance level. Opportunities to perform include festivals, contests, and concerts. There are possible fees for uniform cleaning and/or instrument rental that may be charged. **Prerequisite:** Director recommendation is required.

Choir – One Semester: This class is for students who would like to sing and learn vocal skills in a beginning choir setting. Be a part of a team in this ensemble, creating and performing fun and challenging music together! Students will learn and apply basic music literacy and skills to follow a musical score. No previous experience is necessary. Participation requires a commitment to performing both in class and outside of the school day. There are possible fees for uniform cleaning that may be charged.

Intermediate Choir –Full Year: This choir consists of students who have previous experience singing in a beginning choir and recommended by the previous choir director. Students will get the chance to improve their vocal skills while emphasizing the basics of proper techniques. Students will learn and apply basic music literacy and skills to follow a score. Participation requires a commitment to

performing in class and outside of the school day. Opportunities to perform include festivals, contests, and concerts. There are possible fees for uniform cleaning that may be charged.

Advanced Choir – Full Year: This choir consists of students who have previous experience singing in a beginning, intermediate or advanced choir. Students will get a chance to sharpen their vocal skills through challenging music and performances. This course introduces students to singing 3-part choral music. Participation requires a commitment to performing both in class and outside of the school day. Opportunities to perform include festivals, contests, and concerts. There are possible fees for uniform cleaning that may be charged. **Prerequisites:** Director recommendation is required.

Intermediate Orchestra/Strings — Full Year: This orchestra consists of students with one or more years of instruction on a string instrument. Students will have the opportunity to improve technique while emphasizing basics. Practice at home is required in order to be at performance level. Participation requires a commitment to performing both in class and outside of the school day. There are possible fees for uniform cleaning and/or instrument rental that may be charged.

Advanced Orchestra/Strings - Full Year: This orchestra is a select ensemble which features performance at an advanced level with development of all basic skills. Practice at home is required in order to be at performance level. Opportunities to perform include festivals, contests, and concerts. There are possible fees for uniform cleaning and/or instrument rental that may be charged.

Prerequisite: Director recommendation is required.

Beginning Percussion - One Semester: This class is for students who would like to learn to play the percussion instruments used in the band program. Members of this class often will perform with the other bands in the parade in the spring. Practice at home is required in order to be at performance level. Participation requires a commitment to performing both in class and outside of the school day. There are possible fees for uniform cleaning and/or instrument rental that may be charged.

OTHER

Spanish 1 – Full Year: The first year is a highly communicative introduction to the language. As a student, you will learn to understand and converse in real life situations using authentic expressions. You will be reading short stories and articles, learning to pronounce the language, and writing everything from postcards to paragraphs. As you immerse yourself in the culture and customs of the language, you will begin to develop an appreciation of its music, art, foods, and folklore. **This is a course for high school credit.**

Spanish 2 – Full Year: Second year study enables students to expand vocabulary and explore the target language using more complicated structures and systems such as past tenses, future tense and reflexive verbs. As students increase their ability to understand, they will be speaking with more confidence and complexity. In addition, they will read short selections and stories at more advanced levels. They will be able to talk about where they live, life after school, clothing, vacations, and professions, for example. Classwork will be conducted in the language as much as possible to provide practice in expression and comprehension. Students' cultural awareness expands through a multimedia, hands-on approach. This is a course for high school credit. **Prerequisites:** Successful completion of Year 1

Chinese 1 – Full Year: The first year of Chinese is a highly communicative introduction to the language and it is the base upon which levels 2, 3 are built. Students will learn important foundational knowledge, vocabulary, and grammar and they will be asked to put their knowledge to work in real-life settings. Students will be able to recognize and pronounce Pinyin, the phonics system, and they will use classroom expressions in certain classroom situations. Students will be able to explain how Chinese characters evolved and identify the most common traditional radicals. Students can greet people, tell time, age, nationality and grade in school, talk about school subjects, identify and describe family members and pets, discuss dates and months of the year, exchange phone numbers, express likes and dislikes, and give and response to invitations. **This is a course for high school credit.**

French 1 – Full Year: The first year of a world language is a highly communicative introduction to the language and it is the base upon which levels 2,3,4 and AP are built. Students will learn important vocabulary and grammar and they will be asked to put their knowledge to work in real-life settings. They will be able to talk about their lives, their family and friends, discuss and inquire about weather and pastimes, order food at a restaurant, find their way around a foreign city, and function in new situations. Grammar includes present tense regular and some irregular verbs, adjective agreement, syntax and much more. Students will be reading, writing, listening and speaking every day in class and they will be studying the culture of the people who speak the target language as well as their customs.

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) – Full Year: AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is a national program designed to support and assist selected students with college preparatory curriculum that emphasizes analytical writing, note-taking, organization, public speaking, collaboration, community service reading and research. The mission of AVID is to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society. **Pre-Requisite:** Application Required

Career, College, and Life Readiness – One Semester: Career, College, and Life Readiness provides students with the opportunity to focus on practical, concrete skills which enhance the ability of individuals and families to be effective and productive in careers, at home, and in the world. Through the integration of technology, students practice important consumer, family and work skills including positive relationships, child development knowledge, human growth and development, foods and nutrition, career exploration, money management, college and career planning and drug, tobacco, and alcohol education. In addition, this class embeds the important skills of reading, writing, communicating, problem solving and decision making about real everyday issues. **Required 8th Grade Elective.**