



Wells Middle School
2020-21 Elective Descriptions
6th, 7th, and 8th Grade

Elective classes must meet minimum enrollment or class will be cancelled

Literary Arts

Yearbook

Year long

In thirty years middle school will be but a jumble of memories, but that doesn't mean it wasn't important. You'll find yourself looking back on these memories, but you won't remember everything. Your yearbook class is there for you, capturing every moment and putting every event into a perfect string of words. In this class you will learn about writing skills and how to put them to use when it comes to writing copy. You'll learn how to take photos that capture exactly what's happening, following the photography rule of thirds and are properly focusing. Not to mention, you get to run all over campus, talk to your fellow peers, and be a small part in something so big. The kids who participate in creating such a meaningful memory are the ones who show true Roadrunner Pride. You'll realize you never even got past the first layer of what it takes to create a yearbook and your classmates will be there to help you along the way. You will all find yourselves becoming a family, one finished page at a time. Combining journalism, photography, and campus networking, this class is the epitome of hard work.

Performing Arts

Beginning Band

Year long

This class is designed for those with interest in playing a musical instrument. Students must provide their own instruments if they play flute, clarinet, sax, trombone, or trumpet. This will be a performing group. Students will be able to audition for the marching band.

Concert/Symphonic Band

Year long

This class is designed for those with at least one year of musical training. Students must provide their own instruments if they play flute, clarinet, sax, trombone, or trumpet. This will be a performing group. Students will be able to audition for the marching band.

Jazz Band

Year long

Audition Required

This course is designed for those who have an interest in the area of jazz. We will explore some history of jazz and learn the techniques of improvisations. This will be a performing group. Students who play the trumpet, trombone, and sax will perform with the marching band.

Strings

Year long

In this course, attention is focused on introductory music fundamentals, technical achievement, and acquisition of performance and rehearsal skills through exposure to a variety of music literature. Beginning Strings is open to all students who wish to extend their knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of music by learning to play a string instrument.

Drama (7-8)

Year long

Students in this class will learn about many aspects of theatre including improvisation, physical theatre/mime, Shakespeare, character creation, play writing, and performance. They will also be introduced to the basics of public speaking through a variety of speech and debate units, focusing on their own presentation skills as well as the ability to understand and adapt to various speaking situations. The confidence, poise, and collaborative skills gained in this class will help students not only in class presentations throughout middle and high school, but in future interview and job-related situations as well! This class is open to all 7th and 8th graders.

Advanced Drama (7-8)

Year long

Emphasis in this class will be on all aspects of theatre: improvisation, voice, physical theatre/mime, Shakespeare, children's theatre, character creation, play writing, set design, stagecraft and performance of student-written productions. Advanced Drama students will perform in school plays in both the fall and spring, as well as our annual "Fractured Fairy Tales" show each winter. This class is open to 7th and 8th graders with teacher approval...after school rehearsals take place several weeks before each performance and are mandatory. Students who successfully complete this course may (with teacher recommendation) go directly into Intermediate Drama as a freshman at Dublin High School.

Visual Arts

Art

Semester long

A hands-on class introducing the basics of art: drawing and painting, art history and exploration using various media. The goal of this class is for students to be able to expand their knowledge of art in the world and in themselves.

Design It; Build It!

Semester long

In this class, students will learn the critical skills of analysis and design. They will study problems, brainstorm solutions to those problems, design a solution, and then build it. They will learn about and work with many different materials such as wood, plastic, ceramics, glass, metal, and recycled materials to create their design. They will learn basic Computer-Aided Design skills to help them bring their idea to life before they build it in our Design shop. They will also learn to draft and draw their ideas in a three-dimensional drawing style. They will acquire the skills and tools that the Bay Area's best design firms use in their field and will be well-prepared to bring these skills into other art, design, or engineering disciplines.

Photography I

Semester long

This digital photography class will explore the many facets of digital imagery. Students are expected to produce and preserve images that paint a picture, tell a story, or record an event. Students will be exposed to a wide variety of basic and technical editing strategies and techniques through the use of Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom. This digital photography program will deepen the understanding of composition and image design; focusing on color, light, theory, and practical applications. Students will also explore photography and design careers. Class grade will be based on weekly photography assignments, photography reviews, and quizzes. Students will have access to a limited number of WMS cameras during school hours only. Students should have access to a SLR or DSLR camera at home. A \$25 donation is requested for students' 32gb SD card. Students may also provide their own card.

Photography II

Semester long

Prerequisite, successful completion of Photography I with a B or better. This advanced digital photography class will explore the many facets of digital imagery, design, manipulation and presentation. Students are expected to produce and preserve images that paint a picture, tell a story, or record an event. Students will use advanced technical editing strategies and techniques through the use of Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom. Students will create a photography portfolio and will be expected to create and design a series of images for public presentation and competition. Students will learn about professionally printing images and have the opportunity to print their work for show. Students will have access to a limited number of WMS cameras during school hours only. Students should have access to a SLR or DSLR camera at home. A \$35 donation is requested for students' 32gb SD card and image printing. Students may also provide their own card.

World Language

French 1A

Year long

7th grade

French 1A is an introduction to the French language. Students will learn French through skits, songs, art, reading, writing, games, food, puppets and conversation. There will be homework 2-3 nights per week. This course covers the first half of the high school French 1 class. Students who complete French 1A successfully qualify for French 1B in eighth grade. Together these courses satisfy one year of the world

language high school graduation requirement. Students must maintain a GPA of 2.5 to apply for this class.

French 1B

Year long

Prerequisite, French 1A

French 1B is a continuation of French 1A. This class covers the second half of the high school French 1 class. Students who successfully complete this course will enter French 2 in high school, and will have satisfied one year of the two year world language high school graduation requirement. This class has homework 3-4 days per week.

**Accelerated French
8th grade**

Year long

This class consists of French 1A and 1B combined into one year and moves at the same pace as a high school class. Highly motivated, conscientious 8th graders should enroll in this fast-paced, academic class. Homework will be given 4 nights per week, and quizzes and tests 1-2 times per week. Students who complete this course with a “B” average will enter French 2 in high school and will have satisfied one year of the two-year world language high school graduation requirement. Students must have a minimum academic GPA of 2.75 to qualify for this class.

**Spanish I
8th grade only**

Year long

This class combines Spanish 1A and Spanish 1B in one year. Highly motivated, conscientious and independent learners should enroll in the fast-paced academic class. This class has homework 4 nights per week. Assessments will be given 1-2 times per week. We will go through the same Spanish 1 course given at the high school. Students who successfully complete this course with a “B” average will enter into Spanish 2 in high school and will have successfully completed one year of the two-year foreign language high school graduation requirement. Students must have a minimum Academic GPA of 2.75 and a “B” grade in English and History for this class. (*Note: Native Spanish speakers should take a placement test before enrolling in this class to determine placement at the proper level at WMS or DHS.*)

Technology

Project Lead the Way Gateway to Technology

Gateway to Technology (GTT) - Design and Modeling

Semester long

Students discover the design process and develop an understanding of the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They are then challenged and empowered to use and apply what they’ve learned throughout the unit to design a therapeutic toy for a child who has cerebral palsy. Students will be learning how to use the design process to develop multiview sketches, dimensioning, creating 3D images using Autodesk 123D software and learning how to collect and compile statistical data using GeoGebra.

Gateway to Technology (GTT) Automation and Robotics

Semester long

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 and RobotC to design, build, and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, toll booths, and robotic arms.

Green Architecture

Semester long

Design a house out of a shipping container? Today’s students have grown up in an age of “green” choices. In the Green Architecture (GA) unit, students learn how to apply this concept to the fields of architecture and construction by exploring dimensioning, measuring, and architectural sustainability as they design affordable housing units using Autodesk® 123D® Design software. Students use tools such as the engineering design process, an engineering notebook, and Autodesk® Revit® software to invent and innovate. Learn how creative thinking and problem solving can change your world!

Intro to Computers

Semester long

This unit will allow students to discover computer science concepts and skills by creating personally relevant, tangible, and shareable projects. Throughout the unit, students will learn about programming for the physical world by blending hardware design and software development. They will design and develop a physical computing device, interactive art installation, or wearable, and plan and develop code for microcontrollers that bring their physical designs to life.

Physical computing projects will promote student awareness of interactive systems, including Internet of Things (IoT) devices, and broaden their understanding of abstract computer science concepts through meaningful and authentic applications.

Makerspace

Semester long

The Makerspace is a community of makers. In Makerspace students will be able to create, invent, tinker, explore, and discover using a variety of tools and materials. Projects range from creating designs with 3D printers to programming robots to creating with the use of recycled items...

Elective Courses Requiring Application

AVID

Year long

AVID is an acronym for "Advancement Via Individual Determination." Students are usually selected to enroll in an AVID class after an application process. For one class period a day they learn organizational and study skills, work on critical thinking and asking probing questions, get academic help from peers and college tutors, and participate in enrichment and motivational activities that make college seem attainable.

Certain requirements must be met. Invitation and application required.



Leadership

Year long

This elective course is for creative, self-starting, enthusiastic students who thrive on hard work and responsibility. Leadership is open to all 7th and 8th graders in good standing (academic, behavior, attendance). Students will organize dances, spirit weeks, fundraisers, lunchtime activities, and other school wide programs. Students will discuss and brainstorm different school-related issues that need to be addressed and solved using their leadership skills. **Students must complete an application to be considered.**

6th Grade Elective Wheel Courses

Photo 6

Quarter long/Wheel

This course is an introduction to the technical and aesthetic properties of photography with an emphasis on the use of a camera as a tool for electronic photographic image making. Students will learn the technical aspects of photography as well as how to use the camera as a tool for creating art and idea expression.

Digital Literacy 6

Quarter long/Wheel

In this Digital Literacy skills course, students will explore the capabilities of Google Classroom and Google Drive platforms for individual and collaborative educational purposes. Students will learn how to use Google Docs, Slides, Sheets, Forms, and Sites. Students will learn about and evaluate Digital Citizenship in areas such as: media balance and well-being, privacy and security, digital footprint and identity, relationships and communication, cyberbullying-digital drama, and news and media literacy. Students will improve keyboarding speed and accuracy, with a focus on correct technique. Students will learn the basics of coding using online sites like Scratch and The Hour of Code. Throughout the course, students will present their projects while enhancing their presentation skills.

Coding 6*Quarter long/Wheel*

This is a basic introduction to computer coding using visual (block) code and text based coding. Students will be guided through different activities and projects that will familiarize them with computational thinking and problem solving skills through the use of code. Students will also have the opportunity to take what they have learned and program robots such as spheros, ollies and drones through mazes.

Drama 6*Quarter long/Wheel*

Drama, for the 6th grade selective wheel, provides an introduction to theatrical performance, and is designed to improve student confidence and public presentation skills, whether they plan to pursue acting or not. Students will learn basic theatre vocabulary and concepts as they practice characterization, pantomime, improvisation, and stage movement, culminating in a final performance of a short memorized scene.

Avid 6*Quarter long/Wheel*

The sixth grade AVID/Study Skills Elective course builds upon the components of the AVID philosophy. Student will work on intrapersonal and interpersonal skills, as well as formal and informal speech. They will expand their knowledge bases of note-taking in relation to studying and test preparation. Students will be exposed to guest speakers and research skills to increase their knowledge of college and career options.

Art 6*Quarter long/Wheel*