Welcome to Robinson! The Electives Explorer was created to help students select electives. There are over thirty elective classes offered to middle school students, and choosing the right classes for you can be overwhelming. Hopefully this guide will help you make an informed choice.

When choosing electives, keep your interests and hobbies in mind. For example, if you enjoy acting you could try Drama. If you’re interested in music you could sign up for Band, Orchestra or Chorus. However, trying something new could be fun as well. Robinson offers Introduction to Foreign Language and five different languages for students to study. Which one do you want to try?

Trying out a variety of electives is a great way to explore possible career fields you may have an interest in. For example, if you are considering reporting or writing, try out Creative Writing, Yearbook Production or Newspaper Journalism. If you would like to explore fields involving technology, check out the Computers in Art, Computer solutions or Coding & Innovative Technology courses.

While most electives offered are semester electives, there are some electives that are year-long. Examples are Band, Yearbook and World Languages. Even though languages are electives, they are high school courses and require good study habits and skills. Because languages are high school courses, the grades you get while taking them will count in your high school grade point average.

Some electives require a recommendation, application and/or an audition, such as Advanced Band and

Yearbook. Although a few electives require a lot of work and prior knowledge, there are several electives that are available for novices to take.

After you have chosen your electives, you may have an opportunity to talk with your counselor about your course selection. How many electives do you get to take? Well, this all depends on the electives you choose. Here are your options:

• Two full year electives
• One full year elective and two semester electives
• Four semester electives

Read on to see what Robinson has to offer YOU!
Business & Information Technology

Computer Solutions

Length of Course: Semester, open to seventh and eighth graders
Prerequisites for Course: None
Course Description: Computer Solutions provides students with the necessary skills to use the computer as a problem-solving tool and to complete a variety of projects. Basic touch keyboarding instruction is provided in the course as well as an introduction to Microsoft Office software applications.
Course Highlights: In Computer Solutions, students gain foundational knowledge of the Microsoft Office Suite: Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and Access.

Who should take this course: Students who want to learn how to use the computer and develop their skills for future classes or careers.

Homework Requirements: None

Benefits: Computer Solutions is a course that teaches valuable computer skills that will be used both in high school and college. As a result of taking this course, students will quickly see a positive change in their ability to use the computer to enhance school projects and improve their ability to clearly communicate their ideas through reports, charts, and visual presentations.

A word from the teacher: Students who have taken Computer Solutions frequently stop by my classroom or e-mail me telling me that this course has been one of the most valuable courses they have taken, as they use the skills they learned everyday in their personal lives as well as for creating projects, reports, and various documents for their classes.

Coding and Innovative Technologies 1

Length of Course: Semester, open to seventh and eighth graders
Prerequisites for Course: Computer Solutions
Course Description: Coding and Innovative Technologies introduces students to coding through hands-on projects. Students learn introductory concepts using a variety of apps and interactive web sites such as Code.org, HTML, CSS, Notepad++, and Scratch.
Course Highlights: In this course, students design and program a webpage about a topic of interest. Hands-on projects are completed each class period.

Who should take this course: Students who enjoy working with computers and enjoy hands-on projects.

Homework Requirements: None

French I

Length of Course: Year
Course Description: French 1 introduces students to the cultures of a variety of speaking countries in Europe, the Americas, and Africa. Students work on reading, writing, comprehension, and speaking skills. The class includes hands-on activities such as games, projects, and music.
Course Highlights: Students create their own songs, writing skills and creating the food, atmosphere, menus, and even costumes for the occasion. We use music as an enjoyable way to help them learn the language.

Benefits: French is one of the world’s most beautiful languages, and it’s spoken on five continents, so it’s a useful language. Knowledge of French culture is important to anyone’s understanding of world culture. Learning about and tasting delicious French food is fun.

A word from the teacher: French is one of our English vocabulary comes directly from the French language, so there are few words that are familiar to English speakers.

Homework Requirements: World Languages classes require the same amount of work as core classes.

Who should take this course: Everyone! Do you want to learn the world? French is spoken in many developing countries in Africa. Do you want to travel or study in Europe or Quebec? French is useful there as well. Do you want to create delicious French foods? You’ll learn how in French 1.

Additional Info: Robinson has a well-established exchange program with a school in Provence, France. Students are coming to Robinson in 2020 and we are going there in 2021.

Enjoying French Club activities

Spanish I

Length of Course: Year
Course Description: Spanish 1 introduces students to the cultures of Spanish-speaking countries. Students learn about the fastest growing population in the United States. The primary goals of the Spanish program are to ensure that students:
- Communicate in Spanish in the major language arts skills: speaking, reading, writing, listening, and comprehend.
- Gain knowledge and understanding of the Spanish language, culture.
- Develop insight into the nature of the Spanish language and culture.
- Participate in multicultural communities at home and around the world (Fairfax County Program of Studies, 2004).

Homework Requirements: Online practice is recommended for its many benefits.

A word from the teacher: Everyone is passionate about the language. But the most enriching one is the advantage of completing five years of Spanish language study before leaving high school.

Benefits: There are many reasons to enroll in Spanish I, but the most enriching one is the advantage of completing five years of Spanish language study before leaving high school.

Who should take this course: Everyone! Do you like Nestle Crunch? Do you shop at ALDI? Knowledge of French culture is important to anyone’s understanding of world culture. Learning about and tasting delicious French food is fun.

Homework Requirements: About 10-20 minutes per class meeting, not including studying for tests.

Additional Info: German Club offers fun after-school activities and Robinson also has a partner school in Germany every year. The students visit us, and we travel to Germany to visit them.

German I

Length of Course: Year
Course Description: Wilkommen to German! If you love to embark on a journey with Mozart, Einstein, Nowitzki and others from the world of music, science, sports, and the arts learning German language and culture will be a rewarding and fun experience for you. German and English are both Germanic languages, which means they have many similarities, making German relatively easy to learn.

Course Highlights: Not only do we prepare you to speak, read and write in the German language, we also prepare you for travel to Germany, Austria and Switzerland, all beautiful and culturally interesting regions.

Benefits: Have you ever heard of BMW, Volkswagen, Porsche? Do you like Nestle Crunch? Do you shop at ALDI? These companies are all German speaking countries and they need people who speak both German and English to work for them.

A word from the teacher: German is an academic elective in the world language department. Students must remember that this class will go onto their high school transcript. Yes, it is fun, but daily completion of homework is necessary in order to achieve success in this class.

Homework Requirements: About 10-20 minutes per class meeting, not including studying for tests.

Who should take this course: Everyone! German is fun, the food is great, and the teachers are passionate about the language.

Additional Info: German Club offers fun after-school activities and Robinson also has a partner school in Germany every year. The students visit us, and we travel to Germany to visit them.

Spanish I

Length of Course: Year
Course Description: French 1 introduces students to the cultures of a variety of speaking countries in Europe, the Americas, and Africa. Students work on reading, writing, comprehension, and speaking skills. The class includes hands-on activities such as games, projects, and music.
Course Highlights: Students create their own songs, writing skills and creating the food, atmosphere, menus, and even costumes for the occasion. We use music as an enjoyable way to help them learn the language.

Benefits: French is one of the world’s most beautiful languages, and it’s spoken on five continents, so it’s a useful language. Knowledge of French culture is important to anyone’s understanding of world culture. Learning about and tasting delicious French food is fun.

A word from the teacher: Much of our English vocabulary comes directly from the French language, so there are many words that are familiar to English speakers.

Homework Requirements: World Languages classes require the same amount of work as core classes.

Who should take this course: Everyone! Do you want to learn the world? French is spoken in many developing countries in Africa. Do you want to travel or study in Europe or Quebec? French is useful there as well. Do you want to create delicious French foods? You’ll learn how in French 1.

Additional Info: Robinson has a well-established exchange program with a school in Provence, France. Students are coming to Robinson in 2020 and we are going there in 2021.

Enjoying French Club activities

French I
Introduction to Foreign Language

Length of Course: Semester
Course Description: Students will explore the study of languages offered at Robinson. This includes Chinese, French, German, Latin, and Spanish.

Course Highlights: Emphasis is on providing students the foundations and connections of languages of the world, basic interpersonal communication skills, and cross-cultural perspectives of the speakers of each language and where they live.

Benefits: The overarching goal is to provide students opportunities to explore languages prior to selecting one language to formally study for high school credit.

A word from the teacher: Students will “travel” to different corners of the world and learn how to be positive global ambassadors of their school and understand how language study enhances their English skills, reinforces interdisciplinary knowledge, and sets the foundation for them to be life-long learners of languages. Students will engage in many cultural activities and experiences.

Homework Requirements: minimal

Who should take this course: This course is perfect for middle school students who want to be exposed to languages without the pressure of the high school course.

Chinese I

Length of Course: Year
Course Description: The course is a beginner’s course introducing students to the Chinese culture and language. The following themes included are: Personal and Family Life, School Life, Social Life and Community Life.

Course Highlights: Students enjoy learning about the beauty of this ancient culture through art, writing, and more.

Benefits: One of the benefits of this course is learning about a language and culture that is rapidly expanding throughout the world.

A word from the teacher: Learning Mandarin helps you have a great future!

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Homework Requirements: There are regular homework assignments to help improve upon the skills learned in class.

Who should take this course: All students!

Latin I

Length of Course: Year
Course Description: Salvate to Latin! If you are about to join the company of Caesar, Horace, American presidents, Albert Einstein, and many more who have studied Latin. Learning the Latin language and culture will be a rewarding experience for you. Carpe diem (seize the day).

Course Highlights: In addition to studying the language, students will learn about the history, culture, mythology, daily life, art, and architecture, and study Roman influences in Western Civilization.

Benefits: Latin helps everyone learn the more difficult vocabulary words needed for academic courses in high school and college. Latin is particularly helpful for students whose native language is not English.

A word from the teacher: Latin is ancient and modern. Spoken by Romans 2000 years ago, today, it forms the basis for more than 60% of English vocabulary. The study of Latin can enhance your ability to read and write in English, broaden your perspective of Western culture, and introduce you to vocabulary used in the fields of medicine, law, literature, science, and technology.

Homework Requirements: About 20 minutes per class meeting.

Who should take this course: Latin I is an elective for everyone, especially those who want to work on vocabulary improvement for SAT tests.

Additional Info: We have a Latin (Classics Club) at Robinson. Among the activities are: Salud, state convention, New Year’s cards for nursing homes, yoga bowling, and Greek dancing. We have tutoring through our Latin Honor Society, as well as scholarships and study abroad.

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Creative Writing

Length of Course: Semester
Prerequisites for Course: None

Course Description: Creative Writing offers students the chance to write about anything they want to write about...fairy tales, science fiction, dystopian short stories, poetry, realistic fiction, etc. They try the limit! Students sharpen their writing skills with an emphasis on revision and learning to accurately evaluate their own writing.

Course Highlights: Focusing on writing skills in the first part of the semester, students write creative short stories and enjoy receiving feedback from the teacher and fellow students on a class blog. Students work on individual and group writing projects for the second nine weeks and enjoy choosing their own topics and genres throughout the entirety of the course.

Benefits: Frequent conferencing with the teacher and peers can increase writing skills dramatically over the course of the semester. Confidence shines as writing habits transform. Daily writing warm-ups are a fun way for students to experiment with writing. Many of these warm-ups develop into full-fledged stories!

A word from the teacher: Students enjoy choosing their own topics to write about in Creative Writing and opportunities to collaborate with peers. Computers for everyone, comfy pillows, and a laid-back environment help to create the perfect writing atmosphere for students.

Homework Requirements: NONE!

Who should take this course: This class is perfect for students who love to write AND for students who wish to improve their writing skills in a fun, non-threatening environment.

Media Communication

TV Broadcasting

Length of Course: Year
Prerequisites for Course: None

Course Description: Be an On-Air Broadcaster. Classroom Reporter. Broadcast Technician and a Producer by joining this class. Students who have a drive to ask important questions, get to know people, and find solutions to issues facing the school community. Students will develop their own ideas for stories, conduct on-camera interviews, set up and use professional broadcast equipment, and edit video clips into a professional news story.

Course Highlights: Serve the community with news updates. Be involved in events and activities.

Benefits: This class encompasses the skills required for students to achieve success in today’s world; to communicate information accurately, work independently and be accountable, and act with empathy and respect. Participants in journalism gain experience in applying these essential principles in all areas of their lives.

A word from the teacher: This course will introduce students to professional technology, but the underlying elements of the course are compassion, accountability and the importance of organization and focus to accomplish personal goals.

Homework Requirements: Time will be provided in class to accomplish all requirements.

Who should take this course: Students who are curious about the world and are motivated to find answers to their questions! This class is ideal for students who love to meet and talk with people, who like to hear about other people’s lives, who are interested in using camera and video editing technology, and who are interested in student leadership, public speaking, and supporting a positive school community.

English Electives

Student Interview with Camden Snyder:

What is your favorite genre to write?
I like to write fiction romance because I enjoy creating relationships between my characters.

What style of writing do you prefer?
I like to write long stories because it gives me time to experiment with my writing and foresee different events.

What is your favorite thing about this class?
My favorite thing about the class is that I can interact with other people, yet also write on my own about things I choose. Everyone in class is friendly and it’s just fun.

A word from the teacher: Students enjoy choosing their own topics to write about in Creative Writing and opportunities to collaborate with peers. Computers for everyone, comfy pillows, and a laid-back environment help to create the perfect writing atmosphere for students.

Homework Requirements: NONE!

Who should take this course: This class is perfect for students who love to write AND for students who wish to improve their writing skills in a fun, non-threatening environment.

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Electives Explorer 2020-2021

Robinson Secondary School
Length of Course: Semester
Prerequisites for Course: None
Course Description: Students in this elective are the newspaper staff for the middle school’s online newspaper. The Medallion. Students learn basic publication and journalism skills focusing on writing articles and creating infographics. Course Highlights: Students in Newspaper Journalism enjoy interviewing students, teachers and faculty, writing articles and creating infographics about topics that interest them—sports, technology, school news, books, etc. Staying up to date with current events and discussing what is happening in the world.

Benefits: Students will improve their writing over the course of the semester. Completing articles for the Medallion and other in-class projects provide students with the time and practice needed to develop and perfect writing skills.

Reading

Length of Course: Semester
Prerequisites for Course: None
Course Description: This is a class for students who like to read and often feel they do not! I have enough time to do so, it is also for those students who don’t mind reading but may have trouble finding books they like.
Course Highlights: Students spend the class reading books they have chosen themselves. They are permitted to go to the Media Center on a regular basis or choose books from my class room library. Students also bring books from home to read or even bring their kindles.
Benefits: Reading is a skill, the more you do it, the better you get at it. People who are avid readers generally write better, have well-developed vocabularies, and do better in school.

A word from the teacher: My goal is to provide students with opportunities to develop as writers and journalists. Because students choose their own topics to report on and know that they will be published, they are enthusiastic about their writing. Student journalists work hard at the revision and editing process to ensure their article is just right. This class provides a perfect opportunity for students to sharpen writing, research, and editing skills in a fun and stimulating environment.

Homework: NONE! Who should take this course: Students who:
- enjoy working in groups with friends,
- wish to be published in the school’s online newspaper,
- are thinking of making journalism a career,
- would like to be a part of a fun, enthusiastic, and busy newspaper team.

A word from the teacher: I love to read and have all my life. I read young adult fiction constantly and am always “selling” books to kids. This class is very relaxing and it is a great way to do something educationally beneficial for yourself while distracting a bit.

Homework: NONE! Additional Info: Some students enjoy this class so much, they take it in both seventh and eighth grade.

Quote from a student: “Reading is a fun class to take, especially if you enjoy reading. In class, you basically read for the entire period. After you read a book you have to fill out a form to prove that you read it and get credit for the pages, but that only takes about 15 minutes. We can read whatever we want to read.”

Yearbook Production

The Sentry Staff

Length of Course: Year
Application: You must complete an application to be a part of this class. Please email Mrs. Forte for an application at amforte@fcps.edu
Course Description: Students learn basic publication and journalism skills focusing on writing articles, photography, interviewing and designing infographics for the Robinson Middle School yearbook, The Sentry.
Course Highlights: Working hard to create the middle-school’s yearbook from September through April and being very hands-on in your hands, seeing your hard work published in May. It’s an incredible feeling of accomplishment.

Benefits: Students gain real-life skills in this elective. Deadlines must be met, and staff members have to take responsibility for the section or pages they are in charge of. Students become leaders, journalistic writers and photographers in yearbook class.

A word from the teacher: The students in this class become a family, and the yearbook room, a home. Staffers are all working toward a common goal, and for many of them, it becomes a passion. This is something they can continue in high school and perhaps a career in journalism.

Homework Requirements: Some homework required. Who should take this course: Students who:
- enjoy working in groups with friends,
- wish to be published in the school’s online newspaper,
- are thinking of making journalism a career,
- would like to be a part of a fun, enthusiastic, and busy newspaper team.

A word from the teacher: Showcase your Genius! Homework Requirement: Class time is given for all activities.

Possible Course Highlights: Laser engraving, CNC routing, and 3D printing are used to design and create student generated designs and solutions to challenges. Robotics and open-source electronics platform may be incorporated.

World Languages

Students have the opportunity to take Intro to Foreign Language (IFL), to be exposed to languages before selecting a high school credit-bearing language course. Students may earn up to 5 credits of World Language after taking IFL. By starting a World Language, or being exposed to languages in middle school, students have the ability to further their language career and aim toward fluency in high school. Students can choose IFL in 7th grade and still pursue the IB Diploma.

Students may also choose to earn 2 credits of World Language before they graduate from Robinson. Seventh grade students may enroll in any of the five languages offered at Robinson (Chinese, French, German, Latin and Spanish). Students may complete level 1 in 7th grade or 8th grade. Successful completion of level 1 awards students one year of a World Language high school credit.

The world of a World Languages class is rigorous, like other high school courses. Students will have nightly homework (of about 1-2 hours per night). They may also choose to earn 2 credits of World Language before they graduate from Robinson. Seventh grade students may enroll in any of the five languages offered at Robinson (Chinese, French, German, Latin and Spanish). Students may complete level 1 in 7th grade or 8th grade. Successful completion of level 1 awards students one year of a World Language high school credit.

A word from the teacher: Showcase your Genius! Homework Requirement: Class time is given for all activities.

Possible Course Highlights: Laser engraving, CNC routing, and 3D printing are used to design and create student generated designs and solutions to challenges. Robotics and open-source electronics platform may be incorporated.
Technology Electives

Engineering Design & Modeling - Level 1

Length of Course: Semester, open for both 7th and 8th graders.
Prerequisites for Course: None. But you have to take level 1 before Level 2.
Course Description: Engineering Design & Modeling is an educational, challenging and fun elective using hands on activities to learn about technology and engineering.
Benefits: The work in class correlates with SOL topics covered in math and science classes. The class benefits every student and is especially helpful to those who might pursue careers in engineering, graphic design, math or science.
A word from the teachers: Engineer Your Future with Technology Exploration!
Homework Requirements: Class time is given for all activities.
Possible Course Highlights:
- The class benefits every student and is especially helpful to those who might pursue careers in engineering, graphic design, math or science.
- Students learn about hydraulic and pneumatic systems by making a robotic arm which moves in three directions.
- The semester ends with students making a model dragster propelled by a CO2 cartridge which moves their car down a 50 foot track at a speed of over 40 mph!

Engineering Simulation & Fabrication - Level 2

Length of Course: Semester, open for both 7th and 8th graders.
Prerequisites for Course: Engineering Design & Modeling Level 1. Students use programming and 3D printing.
Course Description: Engineering Simulation & Fabrication is an educational and fun elective. Students use a 3D printer to build a model of a product.
Benefits: The work in class correlates with SOL topics covered in math and science classes. The class benefits every student and is especially helpful to those who might pursue careers in engineering, graphic design, math or science.
Possible Course Highlights:
- Students use programming and 3D printing.
- Students complete various hands on activities.
- Students design and fabricate a muscle car.

Family & Consumer Science

FACS level 1 & 2

Length of Course: Yearlong or Semester.
Prerequisites for Course: None, open for both 7th and 8th graders.
Course Description: Family and Consumer Sciences prepares students to begin their journey toward becoming independent, productive citizens of the world. The aim of FACS courses is to prepare students to acquire personal, social, health, and business skills that will enable them to make responsible and productive life decisions.
Benefits: Family and Consumer Sciences prepares students to acquire personal, social, health, and business skills that will enable them to make responsible and productive life decisions. The course covers topics such as budgeting, nutrition, and family roles.

Peer Helping

Length of Course: Semester.
Prerequisites for Course: None.
Course Description: Peer Helping is a fun way to learn and practice really useful skills. Students help others with homework, set goals, and explore new opportunities.
Benefits: Peer Helping is a fun way to learn and practice really useful skills. The course provides an opportunity for students to develop their support and leadership skills in assisting others.
A word from the teachers: Engineer Your Future with Technology Exploration!
Homework Requirements: Very minimal homework requirements. Homework projects may be assigned to reinforce classroom learning.

Who should take this course: This course is designed for students who want to learn better communication skills, effective cooperation, peer referral skills, and decision making and problem solving techniques.

General Electives

Electives Explorer 2020-2021

Electives Explorer 2020-2021
A word from the teacher: SGA is a unique course because students drive the direction of the class and the events we host. We look for students who are responsible, hardworking, and positive people. 

Course Highlights:
- Building a warm, supportive, and school-spirited, self-motivated, technologically-savvy, excitable atmosphere so students feel free to express themselves and positive role models in the school.
- SGAs are held after school and students will be required to stay on the days of their events.
- Who should take this course: Outgoing, artistic, creative, students who have proven Robinson!

SGA

Length of Course: Year
Prerequisites for Course: An application and recommendation signatures are required.
Course Description: Robinson Students Government Association (SGA) is a leadership development class that focuses on improving participation in school activities, enhancing school spirit, and developing skills to plan, execute and lead school-wide events. SGA is a wonderful class for students who want to get more involved in Robinson and want to make a difference in the school’s culture and climate.
Course Highlights: Students will plan, promote, and carry out exciting events including Homecoming spirit week, dances, sports tournaments, fundraising events, staff/student appreciation days, class competitions, and much more!
Benefits: Students will gain experience working with peers and Robinson’s faculty. They will foster skills needed to be leaders and positive role models in the school. SGA is a fun class that gives students the freedom and power to create events they want to see at school. If a student is interested in high school SGA or Class Council, Middle School SGA is a great place to gain experience.

Electives Explorer

Electives Explorer

Fine Arts - Theater Arts

Theater Arts Appreciation

Length of Course: Semester
Prerequisites for Course: None
Course Description: Students develop an appreciation of the arts and acting through variety of performance activities and theatre games. Students engage their imaginations while building communication, collaboration, and creative thinking skills.
Course Highlights: We focus on creating a warm, supportive, inclusive atmosphere so students feel free to express themselves working on creating scenes, improvisation, physical theatre, and more!

A word from the teacher: Our goal is to provide a safe space as students explore the world of performing. Seeking to build confidence, or strengthen existing skills this is a prerequisite for the Advanced Drama course.

Fine Arts - Theater Arts

Advanced Theatre Arts Appreciation

Length of Course: Year
Prerequisites for Course: Theatre Arts Appreciation and/or recommendation of the teacher.
Course Description: Students apply and expand their theatre skills by functioning as a professional theatre company for the serious theatre student who is interested and committed to in-depth theatre exploration.
Course Highlights: Students explore auditioning, playwriting, directing, technical theatre, stage fighting and more! Students are invited on our NYC Theatre field trip in the year-long intensive we work as an ensemble to investigate, learn, and grow. Advanced Drama is a memorable full year opportunity for the dedicated theatre person.
Homework Requirements: Special projects and rehearsal.
Who should take this course: This course is for focused, passionate theatre students.

Art Extensions

Length of Course: Semester
Prerequisites for Course: None
Course Description: Students apply and expand their theatre skills by functioning as a professional theatre company for the serious theatre student who is interested and committed to in-depth theatre exploration. Advanced Drama is a memorable full year opportunity for the dedicated theatre person.
Homework Requirements: Special projects and rehearsal.
Who should take this course: This course is for focused, passionate theatre students.

Computers in Art

Length of Course: Semester
Prerequisites for Course: None
Course Description: Computers in Art involves student learners in both hands on art processes as well as showing students how an art process/product translates into digital (computer) art work.
Benefits: A really fun way to see how computers are changing the world of art!
A word from the teacher: This course offers students an opportunity to learn about the many professional uses for the computer in the world of art and design.
Homework Requirements: Occasional picture taking at home with personal or school camera.
Who should take this course: Anybody who likes computers and wants to learn about graphic design, cartoons, and stop motion animation.
Additional Info: Students work with industry standard graphics software, including Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, and Windows MovieMaker. We have our own laptop lab in middle school art in addition to an art studio space. We also use graphics tablets and pens, digital cameras and scanners.

3-D Art Exploration

Length of Course: Semester
Prerequisites for Course: None
Course Description: 3-D Exploration Art students work in 3-D drawing, clay, sculpture, crafts, and architecture.
Benefits: This is a hands-on, fast-moving, fun class making everything from 4-foot tall paper mache sculptures to designing jewelry and wearable art like tea shirts.
Who should take this course: Students who like art and are interested in continuing to learn new sculpture techniques and processes should consider this elective.
Additional Info: All art students will have work displayed in the Robinson Pyramid Art Show in the spring.

Art Extensions

Length of Course: Semester or Year
Prerequisites for Course: For the semester class, 7th grade students must have completed the Foundations course first, and there is no prerequisite for 8th grade students. The all-year course is only open to 8th grade students.
Course Description: This course is a continuation of learning in Art Foundations and is geared toward serious artists who wish to be challenged technically and creatively. Students study art techniques and processes and create their own unique art projects.
Course Highlights: Students in Art Extensions enjoy drawing people and fantasy pictures using media like charcoal and pastels. Other projects include large sculptures, book-making, and crafts like weaving, macramé and clay. More advanced painting skills in watercolor and acrylic are also introduced.
Benefits: Enjoy hands-on learning that uses skills from core classes in fun ways. This is a class with no limits to what students can learn and achieve in art.
A word from the teacher: Art Extensions is a good course for focused students who are seriously committed to learning many art skills and techniques.
Homework Requirements: Very little. Who should take this course: Students who seriously like art and are interested in continuing to learn new techniques and processes with other students who share their passion for art should consider Art Extensions.
Additional Info: It’s fun! All art students will have work displayed in the Robinson Pyramid Art Show in the spring, and we take field trips to museums during the year!
Piano Lab
Length of Course: Semester
Prerequisites for Course: Offered to 7th and 8th grade students.
Course Description: Have you always wanted to take piano lessons? Do you need more time to practice for piano lessons you already take, and want some extra help? Do you want to try playing duets or group songs, with other students? Then Piano Lab is the place for you!
Course Highlights: Students will learn basic performance technique on piano and learn beginning to intermediate repertoire. Students with previous piano experience will be encouraged to expand on what they know and try new skills and music.
Benefits: Students who take this course will learn basic to intermediate music literacy skills, as well as how to put those skills to use by writing their own music. You can look forward to a collaborative environment while you explore your piano playing skills.
A word from the teacher: Piano Lab is a great class to come enjoy making music in a relaxed environment. All levels are welcome. This is a great way to supplement your piano or other performing ensemble experience.
Homework Requirements: Students who stay on task during class time will likely not have any homework in this course.

Fine Arts - Visual Arts
Art Foundations
Length of Course: Semester
Prerequisites for Course: None. Open to 7th and 8th grade students.
Course Description: Students in Art Foundations explore techniques and art processes such as drawing, painting, sculpture, and printmaking.
Course Highlights: Projects range from painting tee shirts, to drawing people and animals, to writing comic books, to creating clay sculptures.
Benefits: A fun way to learn new skills. Foundations artists often explore topics studied in other classes, like endangered animals, global warming, and drawing to illustrate emotions and thoughts without words and when words cannot easily describe our thoughts. It is remarkable to see a group of students work together and support each other to truly become one as a circle. Music builds self-confidence, self-esteem and a sense of accomplishment.
A word from the teacher: Learning music is like learning a language, but one that is understood by everyone internationally. It is a way to express emotions and thoughts without words and when words cannot easily describe our thoughts. It is remarkable to see a group of students work together and support each other to truly become one as a circle. Music builds self-confidence, self-esteem and a sense of accomplishment.
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Begining Band
Length of Course: Year
Prerequisites for Course: None. Open to 7th and 8th grade students.
Course Description: Beginning Band is offered to both 7th and 8th grade students. With the help of the band director, students select an instrument and use method books and sheet music to learn how to play the instrument.
Course Highlights: Beginning Band performs several times during the year. They perform at three school concerts and they perform at an annual clinic/spring trip. Intermediate Band students are encouraged to participate in Beginning Band.
Benefits: Music offers an exciting challenge to the student to take on responsibilities, hone problem solving skills, and strengthen their individual work ethic. Participation in band also builds teamwork and social skills within a wide and diverse social circle. Music builds self-confidence, self-esteem and a sense of accomplishment.
A word from the teacher: Learning music is like learning a language, but one that is understood by everyone internationally. It is a way to express emotions and thoughts without words and when words cannot easily describe our thoughts. It is remarkable to see a group of students work together and support each other to truly become one as a circle. Music builds self-confidence, self-esteem and a sense of accomplishment.

Intermediate Band
Length of Course: Year
Prerequisites for Course: Prior band experience and a successful audition are required for participation in Intermediate Band.
Course Description: Intermediate Band is offered to both 7th and 8th grade students. Students participate in band rehearsals and work on advancing instrument and ensemble techniques through method books and sheet music.
Course Highlights: Intermediate Band performs several times during the year. They perform at three school concerts and they perform at an annual clinic/spring trip. Intermediate Band students are encouraged to participate in Beginning Band.
Benefits: Music offers an exciting challenge to the student to take on responsibilities, hone problem solving skills, and strengthen their individual work ethic. Participation in band also builds teamwork and social skills within a wide and diverse social circle. Music builds self-confidence, self-esteem and a sense of accomplishment.
A word from the teacher: Learning music is like learning a language, but one that is understood by everyone internationally. It is a way to express emotions and thoughts without words and when words cannot easily describe our thoughts. It is remarkable to see a group of students work together and support each other to truly become one as a circle. Music builds self-confidence, self-esteem and a sense of accomplishment.

Advanced Band
Length of Course: Year
Prerequisites for Course: Prior band experience and a successful audition are required.
Course Description: Advanced Band is made up of both 7th and 8th grade students. Students participate in band rehearsals and work on advancing instrument and ensemble techniques through method books and sheet music.
Course Highlights: Advanced Band performs several times during the year including two to three school concerts, the District Solo and Ensemble Festival, and an annual clinic/spring trip. Advanced Band students also have the opportunity to participate in the All-District Honor Band and the District Solo and Ensemble Festival. Also, students from Advanced Band generally make up the majority of the Jazz Band, which meets once a week after school.
Benefits: Music offers an exciting challenge to the student to take on responsibilities, hone problem solving skills, and strengthen their individual work ethic. Participation in band also builds teamwork and social skills within a wide and diverse social circle. Music builds self-confidence, self-esteem and a sense of accomplishment.
A word from the teacher: Learning music is like learning a language, but one that is understood by everyone internationally. It is a way to express emotions and thoughts without words and when words cannot easily describe our thoughts. It is remarkable to see a group of students work together and support each other to truly become one as a circle. Music builds self-confidence, self-esteem and a sense of accomplishment.

Creating art gives children an opportunity for self expression. In a group setting there is also the opportunity to share their work with others, practicing socialization skills and developing relationships with adults and with peers.” From Harvard’s Project Zero, on the importance of Art Education.

Additional Info: Art work is displayed throughout the school during the year. All art students will have work displayed in the Robinson Pyramid Art Show in the spring.
Guitar or Guitar 1

Course Description: This course starts at the beginning level, it is a great choice for students with little or no prior music experience or self-taught guitarists who want to refine their technique and work on note-reading skills. You will learn to play many current and classic rock tunes, learn the fundamentals of coloring and finger-style guitar, music theory and songwriting.

Length of Course: Semester or Year
Prerequisites for Course: Offered to 8th grade students.

Course Highlights: Students who enjoy music, want to learn the basics of performing on guitar and want to explore the methods behind music composition.

Who should take this course: Any student who enjoys music, wishes to improve his guitar skills and be a part of a fun group in the process.

Women’s Chorus

Course Description: A wonderful singing experience for both 7th and 8th graders! Students will learn about singing. They will have excellent preparation for the high school ensembles and a solid understanding of vocal technique, music reading, and sight-reading.

Who should take this course: Any female student who enjoys singing, wants to improve her voice, and be a part of a fun group in the process.

Length of Course: Semester or Year
Prerequisites for Course: Offered to 8th grade students.

Programmed by the program, students do not need their own.

Additional Orchestra Info: In addition to having fun while learning to play an instrument, orchestra students also perform at Busch Gardens in the spring and have a great time at the park following the performance.