

2023/2024 Class Choice Descriptions

Grade	Teacher	Class Name	Class Description
K	Mrs. Braun	Kindergarten	<p>Calling all kindergarteners who make learning and having fun their full time job! Our cozy kindergarten provides an intimate learning environment that fosters a sense of community while placing an emphasis on personal educational goals. This kindergarten curriculum integrates art, music, physical education and whole language academics to create lesson plans that reinforce skills for emergent readers. Solid number sense and logical math concepts are reinforced through centers, manipulatives and real-life experience. No worries, we've carved out plenty of time for social development through organized play and a few exciting field trips. We count it our privilege to partner with home-school parents in this noble endeavor of educating our next generation. See you this fall!</p>
K-12	Mr. Eastin	Physical Education	<p>No pre-req's for each class—just need to meet the age/grade level of that class. Physical Education classes will focus on age-appropriate games and sports. These activities are designed to teach and nurture sharing, conflict resolution, problem solving, trust, leadership, communication, listening skills, teamwork and cooperation. In addition to our continued commitment to warm-up games, stretching, push-ups, crunches, and jumping rope, some of the units we will cover include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperative Games <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soccer • Flag Football • Speed Stacking (also known as cup stacking. See www.speedstacks.com for more info) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basketball • Ultimate (cross between basketball without the net, soccer without the kicking, and football) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volleyball • Hockey • Lacrosse • Badmitton • Physical Fitness Testing <p>**Please note that not all of the sport units can be taught completely due to facilities and number of students. In those cases, we will modify the games and/or teach sport specific skills independently to be able to be proficient in those sports</p>
Grade 1	Ms. Nielsen	All About My World	<p>In this geography class, we will learn about where we live in the world, our state, and our country. We will also learn about continents, oceans, landforms, and maps. As part of this class we will do a special unit on taking care of the Earth.</p>

2023/2024 Class Choice Descriptions

Grade 1	Ms. Nielsen	Author Study	We will focus on a different children's author each month! Some choices will be familiar and some will be new. Together, we will read the book and do a related project, craft, writing activity, or game. During this class we also celebrate some special days like Apple Day, Dr. Seuss Day, Gingerbread Day, etc....
Grade 1	Ms. Nielsen	Animals Galore	Learn about all kinds of animals, life cycles, ecosystems, and habitats! We will study animals in the wild, farm animals, and insects. Students will also be working on animal research, and a lab investigation/unit on the life cycle of butterflies.
Grade 1	Ms. Nielsen	Character Education	Students will learn about feeling, and values such as honesty, respect, empathy, kindness, cooperation, responsibility, and gratitude. We will learn through various activities that promote these values. Peacekeeping circles, and mindfulness are also part of this class.

Grades 2-3	Mrs. Richardson	STEAM is All Around Us!!	Welcome 2 nd and 3 rd graders!!! Come and join us as we learn more about the world around us through the lens of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math. This will be a fun hands-on class, where we will read a story, poem, or article and then expand our knowledge based on different topics and make connections to the story. You will be challenged to think outside the box and use your creativity in different activities and challenges!
Grades 2-3	Ms. Nielsen	Ponds! Rainforests! Oceans!	In this hands-on science class, students will be exploring different ecosystems. In the pond ecology unit, kids will learn about the life cycle of a frog, earthworms, fish, and bees, as well as other animals and plants living in a pond habitat. In our rainforest unit, we'll learn about the different layers of the rainforest, climate, plants, and the many wonderful animals living in a rainforest. In our ocean unit, kids will learn about ocean zones, food chains, ocean animals, and work on a research project on sharks!
Grades 2-3	Mrs. Smith	Road Trip Across America	What makes the United States unique? On our road trip across America, we'll learn about different regions by exploring landforms and famous landmarks. Using books, maps, slideshows, and hands-on activities we'll discover places like Mount Rushmore, the Great Lakes, the Appalachian Mountains and more. Hop in and let's go!

2023/2024 Class Choice Descriptions

Grades 2-3	Mrs. Coil	Storybook Art	Join this imaginative art class as we discover all kinds of art through picture books, using stories as inspiration for drawings, paintings, sculpture and more.
Grades 4-5	Mrs. Smith	WOW: Wonders of the World	Our world is full of wonder. Do you know what the Lighthouse of Alexandria was? How long is the Great Wall of China? Where is Mt. Everest? We'll travel and explore ancient, natural, city, and new wonders of our world. Through engaging activities, virtual tours, shared readings, and creative projects we'll become world adventurers right here in our classroom.
Grades 4-5	Mrs. Smith	Science Sleuths	Join in the fun of Mystery Science! Each class starts by asking a science question, watching a short educational science video, and completing a hands-on science activity to help us answer our question. No units will be repeated from last year. Sample questions include: Can animals see in the dark? What makes roller coasters go so fast? How far can a whisper travel?
Grades 4-5	Mrs. Smith	Kids in Print	Become a journalist! In this class we'll learn what journalism is by studying parts of a newspaper, conducting interviews, investigating the 5 W's and H question (who, what when, where, why, and how) writing headlines, decks and leads for articles, taking photos to accompany our articles, as well as learn what layouts and spreads are to create our own class newspaper.
Grades 4-5	Mrs. Smith	Games with a Purpose	Learning through games is fun! We will sharpen our thinking, math, literacy, and social skills through game playing. Board games, card games, dice games, and games you can play on paper will be included in our class time. We will also learn some history as we play together. Who was Milton Bradley? Where was mancala first thought to be played? At the end of the year students will have the opportunity to create their own game and play it with friends, in class.
Grades 4-6	Mrs. Henton	Best Recipes in the World!	This class is for the adventurous cook, and the adventurous appetite! We will cook a different recipe each week from a specific state or country, learning interesting tidbits about the cultures along the way. Students in this class will show off their skills by participating in the preparation for the Annual Bake Sale in December.
Grades 4-6	Mrs. Henton	Core Crochet	This class will be for anyone interested in learning to crochet. We will learn the 4 core crochet stitches, while also creating various small projects.

2023/2024 Class Choice Descriptions

Grades 4-6	Mrs. Richardson	Finance Marvels Hit the Road	<p>This class is going to open your mind on the world of money. We are going to learn all different aspects of finance, focusing on money math skills, budgeting, and starting a business. All this will be tied into the AMERITOWNE curriculum. Towards the end of the year, we will put our skills to use, and head to the city to experience a day at AMERITOWNE!!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*A \$20.00 fee is required AT REGISTRATION to participate in this class*</p>
Grades 4-6	Mrs. Richardson	Cultural Crafts	<p style="text-align: center;">Calling all crafters!!</p> <p>In our class we are going to dive into cultures around the world through learning how to make different crafts and the meaning behind them. We are going to learn about different cultures and touch on some history from all around the world and look at the different crafts they make. This will be a fun, hands-on class where both hands AND minds will be busy!</p>
Grades 4-6	Mrs. Richardson	Crack the Code	<p style="text-align: center;">Hello, my mystery seeking friends!!</p> <p>Come and join me as we learn about different spies, escape rooms and mysteries. This class will always keep you guessing on what we will discover next, and the adventures we will take. This class will keep your mind, math, and reading skills sharp!!</p>
Grades 4-6	Mrs. Richardson	Chapter Chatter/The Book Nook	<p style="text-align: center;">Let's cozy up with a good book!</p> <p>Nothing is better than reading a good book and seeing where it can take you and what you can learn from it. We will start out with some easy reading in order to gain skills, and increase our knowledge about different print types. From there, we will move into different novels and literature. Students will get a taste of many genres. This will be a book club style class, where we will have lots of fun and meaningful discussions about what we read.</p>
Grades 4-6	Mrs. Henton	Cake Decorating Level 1	<p>Would you like to make beautiful cakes and cupcakes? Then this is your class! This class is for beginning cake decorators who have baking experience. You will learn the basics of handling a pastry bag, making icing, piping beginner flowers and shapes, as well as simple borders, lines, and letters. Students in this class will show off their skills by participating in the preparation for the Annual Bake Sale in December, and cupcake sales throughout the school year. This class may be repeated, if you have taken Level 1 in the past and aren't quite ready to make the leap (haha!) to Level 2.</p>

2023/2024 Class Choice Descriptions

Grades 4-6	Mrs. Flanscha	Awesome Anatomy	<p>Aren't you curious about so many things about your body? Have you ever asked questions like....."Why do I need to breathe?" or "Why do I yawn?" "Why do I sneeze?" "What are germs?" "How come I breathe without thinking about it?" "Why does my nose run?" "What is inside of me?" "Am I different from animals?" and how about, "What things are bad for me?"</p> <p>This class will take us through our body systems and be like an owner's manual that will help us understand how our marvelous bodies work.</p>
Grades 4-6	Mrs. Flanscha	Sky and Space	<p>Calling all space explorers!!! Are you interested in learning more about things like flying, clouds, weather, the moon, planets, meteors, our sun and other stars, supernovas, nebulas, constellations, and black holes? This is the class for you!!</p> <p>There will be some projects to be done at home.</p>
Grades 4-6	Mrs. Flanscha	The Earth Rocks!	<p>Do you like rocks? In this class we will study minerals and make a collection of rocks and learn about crystals and how to identify all of them. We will learn about the BIG things that affect the earth: glaciers, earthquakes and volcanos! We will learn about features of our planet, what is inside of it, and about caves, canyons and mountains. Our Earth rocks!</p>
Grades 4-6	Mrs Flanscha	Invention Academy	<p>What are some of the inventions that have changed the world? Who were the creative minds that came up with them? What are some of the newest inventions? We'll learn some things about the creative minds that have invented, and we will also get to do some inventing of our own! Bring your curiosity and creativity!!</p>
Grades 4-6	Mrs. Coil	Myths, Fables and Folklore	<p>Listen to stories about mythical creatures and fantastical beings from cultures all over the world. Students will create a variety of artwork inspired by fables, fairy tales, and more.</p>
Grades 4-8	Mrs. Flanscha	Zippety-Doo-Dah	<p>Let's sing some of the great songs from the good, old Disney and movies! ... The Jungle Book, Mary Poppins, Toy Story, Pinocchio, 101 Dalmatians, Beauty and the Beast, Tarzan, Winnie the Pooh ... SO MANY GOOD, FUN and ENDURING SONGS! This year Disney celebrates their 100th anniversary, and in that time, they have produced some great family-friendly movies and music. This is mostly a performance choir class where we will also learn some good singing fundamentals.</p>

2023/2024 Class Choice Descriptions

Grades 5-12	Mrs. Henton	Cake Decorating Level 2	<p style="text-align: center;">**PREREQUISITE OF CAKE DECORATING LEVEL 1 OR TEACHER APPROVAL**</p> <p>Student in this class will build on the mastery of skill learned in Cake Decorating Level 1. Class content will focus on cake design and buttercream flowers. Students in this class will show off their skills by participating in the preparation for the Annual Bake Sale in December, and cupcake sales throughout the year. This class may be repeated, if you've taken it in the past and would like to more finely hone your skills.</p>
-------------	-------------	-------------------------	--

Grades 6-8	Mr. Jeffrey	Tanglers-Cooperative Problem Solving	<p>Students will be participating in a year-long course to develop skills involved in problem-solving and “thinking outside the box”. These skills are very important to success in both the academic world, and in the world of work. Often these skills involve cooperating with others to achieve a common goal; whether in the workplace, the lab or the classroom. Each week you will be presented with a problem to solve. Students will work with others in the class to discover the solution to the problem. Some problems will be simple, while others will be more complex. The challenge will be to solve the problem by the end of the class period.</p>
Grades 6-8	Mr. Jeffrey	Reading Literacy through the Study of Historical Writing	<p>In this class students will work to improve their reading literacy (the ability to read and understand what you have read) by reading grade level passages from works of both historical fiction and non-fiction. Students will learn various reading strategies to help them to improve their reading comprehension.</p>
Grades 6-9	Mr. Jeffrey	The Art of Persuasion	<p style="text-align: center;">Which is better, vanilla ice cream or chocolate? Could you persuade your classmates that one is better than the other? To do so you will need the Art of Persuasion.</p> <p>In this class, you will be given an either/or question, some class time to research arguments for one position or the other, and then expected to write a position paper outlining your arguments in support of your position. Finally, you will debate a classmate that has an opposing viewpoint. Through this activity you will develop research, writing and debate skills. Students will also learn to cooperate with others in a formal debate format.</p>

Grades 6-10	Mr. Jeffrey	Mysteries in American History	<p style="text-align: center;">What are the answers to the mysteries in American history?</p> <p>Was there a conspiracy to kill President Kennedy? What happened to Amelia Earhart? Were the Rosenbergs wrongly convicted? Who was responsible for the Lindbergh baby kidnapping? What caused the Salem witch trials? What became of the lost colony at Roanoke? Who was involved in the Lincoln assassination conspiracy? What caused the U.S.S Maine to explode?</p>
-------------	-------------	-------------------------------	--

2023/2024 Class Choice Descriptions

			<p>Will we ever REALLY know the truth to these mysteries? Probably not. That is precisely what makes these and other mysteries so useful to us today. Why should we ask questions that cannot be answered with absolute certainty? Asking these types of questions demands that students speculate, debate, gather evidence, judge, evaluate, and compare. Using this process in class, students will use higher level thinking skills. This course is designed to get students to think critically. It is also an excellent supplement to their study of United States history.</p>
Grades 6-12	Mrs. Flanscha	Movin' to Music 2	<p>Come have fun with fellow older students as we learn folk dances from all around the world and dance to some great music! If you've never done any folk dancing, it is lots of fun, it is active, and is a great brain/body workout. We have A LOT of fun together-dancing our hearts out!</p>
Grades 6-12	Mrs. Peterson	Exploring Space	<p>Have you ever wondered what it would be like to live in space? In this class students will study eight planets, (and Pluto, too!) and dwarf planets (of which Pluto is one). They will study asteroids, comets, and meteors, explore the differences, and discuss why they are important. Students will study Black Holes—what they are, what they do, and what would happen if one were stuck in a black hole. We will also discuss what stars are and how they form. Come explore the constellations and meet some specific stars in each constellation.</p>
Grades 6-12	Mrs. Peterson	Weather	<p>A meteorologist is someone that studies the weather-maybe you'd like to be one! Do you want to know why extreme weather happens or even why weather happens in the first place? Students in this class will explore just that. The class begins by explaining the basics of why the Earth has weather, explaining the differences between weather and climate, and studying fronts and why they change the weather. Then students will learn how to predict the weather, study how meteorologists know what the weather is, and discover why weather can change so quickly. Finally, the class will study extreme weather, research the causes of it, and learn what to do if caught in extreme weather (while studying hurricanes, floods, blizzards, tornadoes and maybe more!)</p>
Grades 6-12	Mrs. Peterson	Zoology	<p>What is Zoology? It is the study of animals. Students will begin by studying the least complex animals, (sponges, clams, etc) and continue through the year until the most complex animals (mammals) are the final objects of study and observation. Animals studied will include sponges, clams, starfish, worms, jellyfish, insects, frogs, and mammals of all kinds. In this class we will participate in dissections, so do not be afraid to get a little dirty!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*A \$20.00 fee is required at registration to participate in this class*</p>

2023/2024 Class Choice Descriptions

Grades 6-12	Mrs. Peterson	Psychology	<p>Have you ever wondered why your brain works the way it does? What is mental illness? In this class we will answer these questions. Students will learn about the parts of the brain, what regions of the brain help us do certain functions, and what things cause the brain to “fire” and “operate”. The class will then study nature vs. nurture—the question of do we act the way we do based on genes, or do we act the way we do based on how we are raised. Students will then study about mental illnesses. What are they? Why do they happen? Anxiety, Depression, OCD, Bi-Polar, ADHD and other conditions will be briefly studied. Finally, this class will explore ways we can help others that are dealing with these mental illnesses.</p>
Grades 6-12	Mrs. Peterson	Life Skills	<p style="text-align: center;">WHAT?? I'll use this in real life???</p> <p>This class will give students specific tools they can use in the future! The class we begin with money management, learning how to create a budget, and using money wisely. Students will learn about taxes and how to file a tax return. They will then create a resume and a cover letter. The class will examine the skills needed to get and keep a job. Students will discuss successfully dealing with stress, and how to build healthy relationships with family, friends, and others, including dealing with conflict. This class will simply help students to gain skills that they will use now and throughout the rest of their lives.</p>
Grades 6-12	Mrs. Peterson	Genetics	<p>What makes you, you? GENES!! (not to be confused with “jeans”) Genetics is the study of genes. This class will begin by explaining what genes are, how genes were first discovered, and how likely one is to inherit something from their parents (such as, “Why do I have blue eyes?”) The class will discover what dominance is and why people have the traits they have. Students will learn how likely one is to pass on specific genes to future generations and the way scientists are implementing procedures to eliminate undesirable genetic traits.</p>
Grades 7-12	Mrs. Henton	You Copycat!	<p>Copycat some of your favorite grocery store and restaurant recipes. Students in this class will show off their skills by participating in the preparation for the Annual Bake Sale in December.</p>
Grades 7-12	Mrs. Henton	Cake Decorating Level 1	<p>Would you like to make beautiful cakes and cupcakes? Then this is your class! This class is for beginning cake decorators who have baking experience. You will learn the basics of handling a pastry bag, making icing, piping beginner flowers and shapes, as well as simple borders, lines and letters. Students in this class will show off their skills by participating in the preparation for the Annual Bale Sale in December, and cupcake sales throughout the school year. This class may be repeated, if you have taken Level 1 in the past and aren't quite ready to make the leap (haha!) to Level 2.</p>

2023/2024 Class Choice Descriptions

Grades 7-12	Mr. Jeffrey	Mock Trial	In this course, students will learn about the United States judicial system through hands-on experience in preparing for and participating in simplified mock trials. The course will help them develop their research and communication skills as they prepare for these trials. As students will discover, Mock Trial combines the BEST of debate, speech and drama.
Grades 7-12	Mr. Jeffrey	Globe Trotters	Students will become world travelers this year, just like Rick Steves! They will plan trips with others in class to various places in the world. We will begin with trips to South America, then Europe, before we move to Asia and Africa. Students will work in groups to plan the itinerary, then create Google Slide presentations to share with the class what they discovered and persuade them to take the trip, too. In preparing their presentations, students will learn about world geography; both the physical and human geography of the places where they are “traveling”. Students will develop computer literacy skills as they create their presentations. They will also learn about and play games from the various places in the world that they travel, and teach those games to their classmates.
Grades 7-12	Mr. Jeffrey	Historical Myth Busters	In this course students will investigate numerous myths in U.S. history using primary sources. Research will be done primarily on-line. Working in cooperative groups, students will explore various myths in U.S. history. Once they have decided whether the myth is a myth or the myth contains some truth, findings will be presented to the class. Each student will also write a one-page summary of his or her group’s findings. In doing their research, they should keep in mind that there is always some basis to all myths. Through this exploration into historical myths, students will gain a better understanding of U.S history and improve on their critical thinking and writing skills. This is a great course to supplement the students homeschool US history curriculum.
Grades 7-12	Mrs. Coil	Interior Design & Architecture	Learn how to design your own dream house using the same skills and knowledge as interior designers, decorators, and architects. This class integrates art, math, and design while students create a visual portfolio, including mood boards, models and floor plans.
Grades 7-12	Mrs. Coil	Mindful Art Studio	Let go of perfectionism, stress, and anxiety in this creative and free-flowing visual journaling class. Students will use mixed media techniques for self-expression and relaxation. Embrace mistakes in an experimental and judgment-free zone. Students must provide their own spiral-bound sketchbook with white paper of any size.

2023/2024 Class Choice Descriptions

Grades 8-12	Mr. Jeffrey	Time Travelers to the Ancient World of the Hebrews	<p>The Ancient World in which the Hebrew people lived greatly shaped their culture, and in turn shaped Western culture. This course will take you back in time to explore the history of the Hebrew people and other civilizations of the Ancient World. Students will then use that information to identify the influences in modern day law, government, religion, art and literature. This will be a discussion-centered course. Students will study readings and will be expected to answer questions based off the information for discussions. There will also be periodic writing assignments on select topics. At the end of the course, students should be able to answer the question, “What was the greatest contribution of the Hebrew Civilization to Western culture?”</p>
-------------	-------------	--	--