

2021/2022 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-2	TBA	Listen, Sing, Play	<p>This is a primary music class where students listen to good quality music, do lots of singing, and get to play rhythmic instruments. They will learn the basics of reading music and experience the joy of making music together! This year's class will have all new songs and activities.</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	Mrs. Barnes	All About My World	<p>We will learn about where we live in the world, our state, our country and all seven continents. We will also spend time learning about directions and maps, as well as how other kids live around the world.</p>

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Grade 1	Mrs. Barnes	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 some of their books, do a related project or craft and maybe even take a stab at being an author ourselves.
Grade 1	Mrs. Barnes	Animals Galore	Learn about all kinds of animals, life cycles, ecosystems, and habitats! Find out about wildlife conservation and how kids can help. Study animals from pets to zoos, farms, and in the wild.
Grade 1	Mrs. Barnes	Character Education and SEL	Learn about core ethical values such as respect, kindness, responsibility, and citizenship through stories and activities that help practice these values. We will also spend some time on social-emotional learning.
Grades 2-3	Mrs. Flanscha	Picture Book Adventures	We will look at fun books with great stories, unique characters, and beautiful pictures. In each class we will read a classic or an award-winning book and then use our imaginations or learn something brand new doing a project related to the book. We'll do some art, some drama, some science, some geography, some writing.....who knows where the books will take us!

Grades 2-3	Mrs. Lessman	Learning with LEGO	Math, reading, writing and science are all more fun with LEGOs! Students will learn a variety of skills through the use of LEGO building and storytelling kits.
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Grades 2-3	Mrs. Unruh	Sensational Seasons 2	This year, we will be exploring art and the beauty of the seasons, starting with <i>Summer</i> : a focus on Favorite Activities, including camping. <i>Fall</i> : a focus on Leaves and Change, <i>Winter</i> : a focus on New Beginnings and <i>Spring</i> : a focus on Nature and a Time for Rebirth. Projects use a variety of media and natural resources. Developing basic art skills and discovering artists will be included as we explore and learn to appreciate the beauty around us.
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Grades 2-3	Mrs. Barnes	Junior Scientists	In this class we will learn a new STEM concept and perform a relevant experiment. Some will be completed in one class and other will take two or three classes to finish. We will observe and question, research, hypothesize, experiment and analyze, and report. Also, we will have a whole BUNCH of fun !!
Grades 4-5	Mrs. Lessman	Story Studio	Go on an adventure through stories! We will be listening to great short stories and chapter books too. Mysteries, nonfiction survival stories, and historical fiction will all be part of the fun. Learn to be a storyteller through games and activities. You will also practice the steps to write your own short stories!
Grades 4-5	Mrs. Lessman	Spy School/ Escape	Learn spy skills such as encoding and decoding, critical thinking and logic, and problem solving. Students will use STEM projects to solve problems in a variety of mystery related scenarios. We will also be working to escape from numerous classroom-based escape rooms. Students will then design an escape room of their own.
Grades 4-5	Mrs. Lessman	Oregon Trail Live	In this class, students will participate in a live version of the classic computer game, Oregon Trail. They will learn about the settlers who traveled West. With that knowledge, they will attempt to survive their journeys West during our classroom simulation. The class will include literature, science, math and a variety of hands-on projects.
Grades 4-5	Mrs. Lessman	Games 101	Let's play games! Students will learn about many types of games and the elements that make games fun and challenging. We will learn the history of some popular games too. Students will play a variety of games involving math, problem solving and creativity. They will apply this knowledge to create a game of their own.
Grades 4-6	Mrs. Flanscha	Movin' to Music I	Folk dancing used to be a main social activity when people got together, because it is FUN! This class teaches rhythmic movement and folk dances from around the world. You will learn steps that apply to many different dances. It requires team effort and is great body AND brain exercise!!

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Grades 4-6	Mrs. Henton	Cookin' Across the Country	<p>For the adventurous eater in 3rd-5th grades, this class will teach you how to make various recipes from different parts of the USA. Get to know your country a little better through food! Members of this class will participate in preparation for the annual Bake Sale in December, if allowed per covid regulations. All items will be nut free. Instructor is willing to work with other food allergies as well, with parental support. Parents will be expected to help supply weekly food needs via Sign Up Genius.</p>
Grades 4-6	Mrs. Unruh	Google Up!	<p>Get to know "Google" in this fun, interactive class. Since our school uses Google drive, this basic introductory course should help students become familiar with all it has to offer. Students will learn to use basic Google Apps like Classroom, Draw, Docs, Slides, Sheets, Photos and SketchUp (3D). They will also learn to use Pixlr (like photoshop) a free online app. This is a great preparatory class for Grafix Publications, without the yearbook deadlines. Let's make friends with Google! (students with previous experience are welcome)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">REQUIREMENTS: 1. Basic reading and computer skills (open/close/save files) 2. Access to a computer at home to practice skills learned. 3. Access to the internet from home</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 must have their own tip set for use in class (see class supply list for specifics). Parents will also be expected to supply shortening, powdered sugar and cake mixes as well. 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, if allowed per covid regulations.</p>
Grades 4-6	Mrs. Flanscha	The Earth Rocks	<p>This is an earth science class in which we will study Earth's history from a "young earth perspective". We will be "hands on" with rocks and learn such things as the kinds of rocks, rock layers, formations, fossils, weather and the relationship between the sun, moon and earth.</p>
Grades 4-6	Mrs. Flanscha	Speak Out	<p>This class is all about talking to each other and speaking to a group-which at some point all of us will be called to do. We will have fun together playing games as we learn to speak in front of a group and listen to each other. We will also use drama, puppets, and reader's theatre. The experiences will help boost students' confidence as we practice in a safe and encouraging environment. As our skills grow, we will learn to speak on various topics with both prepared speeches and spontaneous ones. Let's dispel that "fear of public speaking". There will be some preparation at home.</p>

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Grades 4-6	Mrs. Flanscha	Animalia- Vertebrates	We will learn all kinds of fascinating things about the animals with backbones: birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians and (everybody's favorite!) mammals. We even will have animal visits!! Every few weeks there will be some study and preparation at home involving research and writing. We will also be using Google slides for some presentations.
Grades 4-6	Mrs. Unruh	Sensational Seasons 3	This year, we will be exploring art and the beauty of the seasons, starting with <i>Summer</i> : a focus on Favorite Activities, including camping. <i>Fall</i> : a focus on Leaves and Change, <i>Winter</i> : a focus on New Beginnings and <i>Spring</i> : a focus on Nature and a Time for Rebirth. Projects use a variety of media and natural resources. Developing basic art skills and discovering artists will be included as we explore and learn to appreciate the beauty around us.
Grades 5-7	Mrs. Henton	Cake Decorating Level 2	Would you like to improve your cake decorating skills? This class is for students who have taken Cake Decorating Level 1 and passed with 80% or better, or with teacher approval. We will build on skills learned in Level 1, learning several flowers, including rosebuds and daisies, as well as additional decorative borders. Students must have their own tip set for use in class (see class supply list for specifics). Parents will be expected to supply shortening, powdered sugar, and cake mixes as well. Students will show off their skills by participating in the preparation for the Annual Bake Sale in December, and cupcake sales throughout the school year, if allowed per covid regulations.
Grades 5-7	Mrs. Henton	Gluten Free for You and Me! *New for 2021- 22*	Students will learn about what it means to live a gluten free life, including converting some of your favorite recipes into GF friendly ones, as well as what can be made naturally gluten free. All items will be nut free. Parents will be expected to help supply weekly food needs, via Sign Up Genius. Members of this class will participate in preparation for the Annual Bake Sale in December, if allowed per covid regulations.
Grades 6-8	Mr. Jeffrey	Tic Tac Toe of American History	In this project driven course, students will learn about US history while being given a variety of choices in presenting the product of their research. Students will develop their research and writing skills. They will also learn how to use a variety of modalities to present information. This course is a great way to supplement what they are learning about American History at home.

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Grades 6-9	Mr. Jeffrey	Famous Heroes and Villians in World History	<p>In this yearlong course, students will be asked to research famous persons in World History whom historians have labeled heroes or villains. They will research historical figures such as Julius Caesar, Genghis Kahn, Lorenzo De Medici, Galileo, Martin Luther, Otto von Bismarck, Napoleon Bonaparte, and many others. After researching the biographies of these famous and infamous people, they will be asked to arrive at a position regarding whether or not historians labeled them correctly. After discussing points of view, students will be expected to write a five-paragraph essay arguing their point of view. Students will learn research skills, be involved in critical thinking, and will be introduced to the writing of a five-paragraph expository essay.</p>
Grades 6-9	Mr. Jeffrey	What Ifs in American History	<p>In this course, students will be engaged in what is called “subjunctive history” by asking the question “what if?”. By doing this, they will be able to explore more thoroughly historical events in American history and come away with a deeper understanding. This course requires the student to engage in creative thinking when asked to come up with an answer to a counterfactual proposition and will ask the student to read actively and critically as he/she analyzes events and decisions and arrives at an answer to the question “what if?”.</p>
Grades 6-12	Mrs. Flanscha	Movin’ to Music 2	<p>Folk dancing used to be a main social activity when people got together, because it is FUN! This class teaches rhythmic movement and folk dances from around the world. You will learn steps that apply to many different dances. It requires team effort and is great body AND brain exercise! This class will do more complicated and challenging dances.</p>
Grades 6-12	Mrs. Ragazzo	Creative Writing Workshop	<p>Writing is a form of art, and authors are, in a sense, artists. In Creative Writing Workshop, students will have the ability to create their “writing” art and share it, as they wish, on a weekly basis with peers. The creativity will flow as we explore genres such as personal narratives, short stories, poetry, children’s books, writing through word lists, plays, etc. This year students will learn how to expand their creativity in their writing through a designed writing workshop. They will advance their skills in using literary elements and writing techniques as they become writing artists.</p>
Grades 6-12	Mrs. Ragazzo	Film Through Literature	<p>Talk a walk through the world of film and explore it with the eye of a literary expert. In this class we will shape our literary knowledge.....with a little bit of fun in the mix. We will explore how stories go from the page to the screen and maintain their literary effects of theme, characterization, setting, plot, etc. All movies will be G-PG13 ratings, and will first be approved by parents and guardians. So come and join us for some movie critiquing fun.</p>

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Grades 6-12	Mrs. Ragazzo	Writing Skills	<p>(this is a foundations class) Having good writing skills is the most disregarded component to the foundation of learning, and yet so vitally important to becoming a well rounded educated adult. Today we have the misconception that computers will "think" for us. I wouldn't count on that! Writing equals building. Students will start their writing skills off by building their foundations, and then take them to the next level. Writing skills is a class where they will learn how to write in a technical way. We will start off by learning how to achieve a well written paragraph, and we will build from there. They will learn how to write essays, research papers, professional letters, etc. Their writing skills will become stronger and more effective.</p>
Grades 6-12	Mrs. Peterson	Biology- What? It's Alive?	<p>Ever wonder what makes something alive? Have you wanted to know about the different parts that make us, well, us? In this course we will be going over these questions. We will go over cells, which make up life, how they grow and divide, and eventually become something so complex and intricate that they become us!!</p>
Grades 6-12	Mrs. Peterson	Weather	<p>Why does the weather do what it does? In this course we will go over parts of the weather. We will also explore factors that influence the weather. We will learn how scientists predict the weather and will also examine some prediction of the weather for ourselves! The class will go over examples and causes of extreme weather, such as tornadoes, floods, and hurricanes. We will go over their causes, yes, but also what we can do to be safe when extreme weather hits. Look out!</p>
Grades 6-12	Mrs. Peterson	Environmental Science	<p style="text-align: center;">What a world! What a world!</p> <p>Have you ever wondered why our planet is the way that it is? Have you ever wondered why some areas of the world seem to have nicer climates (or not so much nicer) than other areas? In this course we will go over the different ecosystems and why different climates are the way they are. We will also talk about how humans can impact the climates that they live in and ways that we can help keep the world the beautiful place that it is, or even make it better!!</p>
Grades 6-12	Mrs. Peterson	Physics	<p style="text-align: center;">Why is that thing moving?</p> <p>Why do items move the way that they do? Why, when I kick a ball to the wall, does it come back and hit me? Ouch! Well, the answer is physics. In this course we will observe and explore motion. We will learn about Newton's laws of motion, view cool demos on how these laws of motion work, and even do some interactive activities where we can see these laws of physics unfold before our very eyes! We will also explore energies, kinetic and potential, and see where in the name of Newton that takes us....</p>
Grades 6-12	Mrs. Peterson	Psychology	<p>Have you wondered what is going on in your brain? Other people's brains? Have you ever thought, "I feel super, duper, totally and ridiculously weird today! Why?" In this class, we will answer these questions! We will look at what influences our thoughts and actions, and even our dreams! We will go over the concept of nature vs. nurture---what is that? We will go over why sometimes our brains seem to just not be able to function properly. We will learn about different types of brain disorders and some ways that we can help raise awareness and understanding about these disorders.</p>

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Grades 6-12	Mrs. Ragazzo	Art of Persuasion	Speech and debate are two types of oratory that we use every day as we communicate within society. In this class, you will learn the art of these two oratories, and how to effectively use them to persuade others to your claim. You will learn about ethos, pathos, and logos, and how these psychological appeals can be a driving force within your persuasion. To end the year, you will combine all that you have learned to prepare and present a passion project on what you are most passionate about.
Grades 6-12	Mrs. Ragazzo	American Classic Literature	Mark Twain, Jack London, John Steinbeck, Louisa May Alcott, Harper Lee, C.S. Lewis.....These are just a few of the inspiring American Classic authors. In this class, you will look into what makes American Classic Literature so authentic. You will learn about these authors and attempt to see life through their literary eyes. You will read some of the greatest writings of our time and have the opportunity to debate with your peers which is better.....Huckleberry Finn or The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe!
Grades 6-12	Mrs. Ragazzo	Historical Fiction	For all of those history buffs out there, this class is a way to combine your love of history with your love of reading and writing. You will step back into the past as you read and discuss several genres of historical fiction. Read, explore, and discuss books regarding the 3rd to the 20th century, documentary non-fiction, historical mysteries, and historical fantasy. This a class where history can be made.
Grades 7-12	Mr. Jeffrey	Historical Scene Investigations	<p>This year, in Historical Scene Investigations, students will investigate famous crimes in United States history. Using primary sources, they will delve into famous, and not so famous crimes. With the advent and accessibility of the computers at LEAP that can access the internet, many libraries, universities, and government agencies are housing their historical documents online. This will give students a chance to actually engage in research that historians do to investigate the past. They will be expected to do the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise questions and marshal solid evidence in support of their answers. • Go beyond the facts presented in traditional textbooks and examine the historical record for themselves. • Consult documents, journals, diaries, artifacts, historical sites, works of art, quantitative data, and other evidence from the past to solve the crime. <p>This is a great course to supplement their study of US History and also help them to develop their research skills.</p>

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Grades 7-12	Mrs. Henton	DO Be a Copycat! *New for 2021-22*	We all have favorite items from our favorite restaurants, or even from the grocery store! As a member of this class, you will learn how to make some of your favorites at home ☺ Parent will be expected to help supply weekly food needs, via Sign Up Genius. Members of this class will participate in preparation for the annual Bake Sale in December, if allowed per covid regulations.
Grades 7-12	Mrs. Unruh	Sensational Seasons 4	This year, we will be exploring art and the beauty of the seasons, starting with <i>Summer</i> : a focus on Favorite Activities, including camping, <i>Fall</i> : a focus on Leaves and Change, <i>Winter</i> : a focus on New Beginnings and <i>Spring</i> : a focus on Nature and a Time for Rebirth. Projects will use a variety of media and natural resources. Developing basic art skills and discovering artists will be included as we explore and learn to appreciate the beauty around us.
Grades 7-12	Mr. Jeffrey	First Amendment Rights and Famous Court Decisions in U.S. History	This course looks at the various historical Supreme Court cases involving the First Amendment rights-freedom of speech, press, religion, assembly and petition-found in the US Constitution. Students will be asked to read the background to the case, look at the arguments given before the Court, arriving at their own decision before looking at the actual decisions of the Court. Students will develop their critical thinking skills and a greater appreciation and knowledge of our basic rights found in the first amendment to the US Constitution.
Grades 7-12	Mr. Jeffrey	Freakonomics	<p style="text-align: center;">“Money makes me happy except when it doesn’t.”</p> <p>Students will explore how to manage money and the pitfalls of money by looking at the “Nine Rules for Money Management on a Notecard” by Harold Pollack. The course will also use Dave Ramsey’s radio call in show to consider financial problems people face and the advice Mr. Ramsey gives them. Through this course students will develop financial literacy.</p>

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Grades 7-12	Mrs. Unruh	Grafix Publications	<p>Grafix Publications is set up like an actual business with students as the employees. They will receive monthly "pay" based on their work ethic and production. Students will learn basic digital photography skills and good composition. They will learn basic computer graphic skills and editing in Pixlr (a free program similiar to Photoshop), Google Suite and SketchUp (a free 3-D program). Throughout the year, the learned skills, along with organizational tools will be used to create our annual yearbook using Google apps for page layouts. As TSD students,they will also have access to Google Drive and associated programs and learn how to use them. An ongoing goal of Grafix Publications is to give every student access to free technology. REQUIREMENTS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Basic computer skills (open/close/save files)2. Access to a computer at home.3. Access to the internet and the ability to download free software.4. A basic digital camera or phone and 2GB flash drive.5. Take at least 10 pictures per month to use for the yearbook. <p><i>1 hour per week minimum homework.</i> This class will require more homework time during 2nd semester as more time is spent on the yearbook. Students MUST be able to work independently and practice skills at home to succeed in this class.</p>
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