

## **Middle School Class Descriptions - Grades 6-8 (meet Mondays and Wednesdays)**

### **MS Performance Task Writing for Test Prep (FREE!)**

Do you feel confused when you read the performance task directions for the end of the year Smarter Balanced Test? Join this class and you will know what to do when the time comes. Practice reading articles and writing creative stories and essays in response. Learn to use transitional phrases and cite your sources. Practice performance task writing with friends and peers to have fun and learn from one another. We will be using Test Prep for CCSS Performance Task Grade 6-8 workbooks. Homework will be assigned for Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Students will assess themselves. The goal will be to write 8-10 essays over the course of the semester.

### **MS Spanish**

This full-year class will introduce students to the Spanish language through development of vocabulary, grammar and conversation. Students sometimes find they are challenged beyond their comfort level when they begin study of Spanish in high school, as a significant amount of material is presented fairly quickly. This class helps prepare students with a beneficial foundation for going on to high school Spanish at Alder Grove or elsewhere, providing a confidence-building experience that familiarizes them with the language and helpful strategies for learning it. A textbook appropriate for Middle School is followed, and students will participate daily in hands-on, individual and collaborative activities. Consistent attendance is required as well as completion of weekly homework to complement in-class learning.

### **Math 6, 7 and 8**

These courses are appropriate for students who are working at grade level. These courses cover the Common Core State Standards for grades 6, 7, and 8. Students will gain proficiency in these concepts through guided instruction, note-taking, and individual assignments. Additionally, students will work collaboratively on a variety of enriching performance tasks that require them to problem solve and use their knowledge of concepts learned in class. Students will be required to complete 2-3 hours of homework each week in addition to the tasks completed in class. Students will use technology including scientific calculators and the internet, in class and at home, to complete their assignments.

### **Earth Science**

This Earth Science program utilizes the FOSS NGSS (New Generation Science Standards) based curriculum for Life Science. The class will be a hands-on, class run program where students could interact with the Earth. The focus of the classwork and homework will be on Earth's history, and weather and water.

### **Life Science**

Using the FOSS Curriculum, students will explore life science questions and investigations with labs, lab discussions, reading and vocabulary tasks, in addition to art and social studies integration assignments. **Students will require support during the homework assignments to be successful in this class.** Students will need an email address and access to a computer and the internet.

### **Physical Science**

This class will cover all of the concepts expected of a middle school physical science class, including: The Structure of Matter, Interactions of Matter, Force and Motion, and the Universe. We will use Holt Physical Science Book, and students will be expected to read and answer questions found in this book each week at home. In addition, the class will have a computer component, and students will need to have access to the internet at least one hour per week to complete an assignment and receive full credit. Class time will be spent almost entirely on lab activities, review of complicated concepts, and exams. In addition, students will be assigned one project (such as a model or written report) and one presentation each semester. Regular attendance, internet, and the ability to work at home in a textbook is what is needed to succeed in this class!

## **Monday Afternoon Enrichment Classes**

**Group A – K-1st grades**

**Group B – 2nd-3rd grades**

**Group C – 4th-5th grades**

**C+ – 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades**

**MS - 6th-8th grades**

### **Group A & B Plant/Herb Science**

This class will be learning about herbs, health benefits of herbs, making things with herbs and creating Herb Fact books. We read books and discuss key ideas and then students write their information in their books with illustrations. Students will also make various items with herbs. The students will have to do a great deal of writing in this class, since they will be making a Herb Fact book. We will also play herb games while learning about the health benefits of herbs.

### **Group A Art**

This class will be fun, exploratory and messy. We'll play with various art mediums and use creative techniques for making our art projects. This class will include group art as well as individual and we'll use a variety of found and recycled objects to create sculptures, as well as 2-d art works.

### **Group C+ MakerSpace**

A Makerspace is a collaborative work space for making, sharing, learning, and exploring using S.T.E.A.M (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics). The Alder Grove Makerspace will be a place for students to come together to develop their 21st century skills of problem solving, collaboration, innovation, and creativity!

### **MS Mindfulness**

Mindfulness is a technique growing in popularity in schools because of its ability to help children learn to focus, become calm and gain personal awareness. This class will teach various mindfulness practices that can help students lower stress, feel more at peace and better deal with the difficulties of growing up in a fast-paced culture. Students who attend this class will find a peaceful space where they can learn to slow down, deal with stress and gain coping strategies that will be useful throughout their lives.

### **Group C and 3rd grades Writing Performance Task (FREE!)**

Do you feel confused when you read the performance task directions for the end of the year Smarter Balanced Test? Join this class and you will know what to do when the time comes. Practice reading articles and writing creative stories and essays in response. Learn to use transitional phrases and cite your sources. Practice performance task writing with friends and peers to have fun and learn from one another. We will be using Houghton Mifflin Harcourt: Performance Assessment: Grade 3-5 Workbooks Online as well as Google classroom. Students will write one- two essays over the course of the semester during class time.

### **Group A & B Math and Logic**

This class will use AIMS curriculum. Student will learn math concepts and logic skills in both individual, whole class and group activities.

### **Group C Hand Sewing**

This class will help students to develop skills in hand-sewing. While hand stitching may appear simplistic, there is much to be considered. Students will learn different types of hand stitches and their purpose. Students will focus on a semester long project where we make either a doll or a teddy bear.

### **Group B Geography and Literature**

This is an introduction to world cultures and geography through children's picture books. Along with award-winning literature, this class includes nature study, folktales, fables, music, art, poetry, and history. Geographic elements include country maps and flags for students to cut out and color, and journaling of all the student is learning.

## **Wednesday Afternoon Enrichment Classes**

### **Group A & B Multicultural Art and Literature**

In this class, we will travel the world through stories and art. We will read and discuss children's literature from each of the continents, and complete art projects related to the stories and cultures. Students will explore and play with a variety of art media, including watercolors, crayons, pastels, collage materials, and more.

### **Group C+ Lego Mindstorms**

Students will work with Lego Mindstorms to complete projects. Students should be prepared to work in collaborative groups as there will be no independent projects.

### **MS Digital Media: Graphic Design for Academics**

Students will be expected to bring subjects they are working on outside of class to be enhanced with graphics. This will include posters, report covers, charts and graphs. The goal of the course is to learn the skills needed to communicate research with visual materials.

### **Group B Yoga & Life Skills**

This class will focus on a weekly life skill incorporating yoga movement, games and songs.

### **Group C Digital Media: Storytelling**

Technology plays a vital role in modern life. Students will be comparing and contrasting historical inventions that revolutionized society to the familiar devices of today. Includes project based learning with classroom instruction of image editing, word processing, etc. Participation in weekly classroom activities is mandatory. Some knowledge of computers is very helpful. Most important is that students are ready and willing to be creative. Let's make some art!

### **Group A Playing at Reading**

Language arts made fun with games such as Fishy Fishy, triangle tag, and Mail Bag. Rug time reading and journal writing continues.

### **Group C Famous Artists: A Hands-On Approach**

We will study several famous artists and complete art projects inspired by the artists' work. We will explore a variety of art materials, including pastels, watercolors, collage, mixed media, and more. This class is an opportunity for students to be creative, have fun, and learn more about the world of art!

### **Group B Dramatic Reading and Singing Skills**

In this language arts, drama class, students will work on reading stories, short scripts, poems, and song lyrics. They will read and sing silly songs with expression, articulation, and projection and perform some dramatic readings for each other and families at the end of the semester.

### **Group A Science & Yoga**

Students will explore scientific concepts while moving using beginning yoga poses, movement games and song activities.

**High School Class Descriptions**  
**(meet Tuesdays and Thursdays-unless otherwise indicated)**  
**Please Note: Some classes have specified grade levels and/or prerequisites**

**a-g Algebra 2 - grades 10-11**

a-g Algebra 2 is a college-prep Algebra 2 course. a-g Algebra 2 is a math course in the study of algebraic expressions, equations, inequalities, and functions. This course complements and expands the mathematical content and concepts of Algebra 1 and Geometry. Some of the topics covered include complex numbers, exponents, radicals, matrices, systems of linear equations, functions (absolute value, exponential, logarithmic, quadratic, radical, polynomial, and rational) and their behavior, solving nonlinear equations, conic sections, probability, and sequences/series.

**a-g Integrated Math 1**

Math 1 following common core state standards using algebra 1 text and various teacher generated projects and activities.

**Basic Algebra - Prerequisites:** Basic whole number/fraction/decimal/percent arithmetic; some experience with negative numbers.

This is an algebra course recommended for high school students who are not on the 4-year college track. It covers much the same content as Algebra 1 but with shorter units and homework problems that do not go much beyond the basic algebra skill level.

**a-g Geometry**

Geometry following common core state standards using geometry text and various teacher generated projects and activities.

**a-g Spanish 1**

This year-long course is an introduction to the Spanish language and Spanish-speaking cultures. Students will learn to Spanish vocabulary and grammar through imitation and repetition in speech and in writing. Cultural themes of the Spanish-speaking world are introduced to offer students insights into the Spanish and Latin American cultures. This course meets onsite twice a week, with 3 days of work to be completed at home using online resources and a textbook. The college-prep course moves quickly. Therefore, students are expected to participate in all class activities and show a willingness to speak Spanish daily. Students are expected to complete oral, listening, and written practices. This course includes oral presentations, individual projects and group projects.

**a-g Biology**

Using the Oak Meadow curriculum, I would like to teach my biology (year-long) class again. It starts the first semester with the fundamental theories and basic understanding of biology. The second semester is a more in-depth focus of the biological world starting with prokaryotes and eukaryotes and working all the way through to human physiology. There isn't necessarily a prerequisite for this program, but it is a college-readiness based class. There *will be* at least 3 hours of homework a week.

**a-g Environmental Science**

This year-long science class can count as life or physical science, and will cover all of the concepts expected of high school student planning to attend a four-year college. Students will attend class on site for 2 days each week, with 3 days of work completed by the student at home. Class time will be spent almost entirely on lab activities, review of complicated concepts, and exams. Students will write reports and give presentations each semester, in addition to

weekly homework. Regular attendance, internet, and the ability to work at home in a textbook is what is needed to succeed in this class!

### **a-g Spanish 2 - Prerequisite Course: Spanish 1 with C or better; Semester 1 of Spanish 2**

This year-long course begins with a quick review of Spanish 1 material. Spanish 2 is a continuation and expansion of the students' vocabulary, grammar, and understanding of Spanish-speaking cultures. Classroom time will be focusing on speaking and listening, utilizing new and old vocabulary, through activities, games, presentations, and projects. The course meets twice a week and will require 3 days of work to be completed at home. *This course includes online work to be accessed and viewed on a computer.* Therefore internet access is a requirement, which may be fulfilled using the school's computers. Participating in class activities and having the ability to complete assigned work for home on time is necessary to learn Spanish and succeed in this course! This is a college-preparatory course that moves quickly. Students must be prepared for a lot of homework.

### **a-g American Government**

The American Government semester course at Windsor High School will focus on how the Federal and State government work. Other topics include: the three branches of government, amendments, constitutional law, voting behavior and procedures, and comparative governments around the world.

### **Intro to Herbalism (Tuesdays only)**

In this class, students will learn about the use of plant remedies for a variety of common ailments, including herbal first aid, herbal nutritional support/wellness as well as basic skin care. We will also explore and learn about the history of the use of herbs as medicine. This class will include hands-on work, processing plants and preparing remedies for personal use.

### **Art (Thursdays only)**

This hands-on art class will meet once a week with a focus on exploring and experimenting with various art mediums and techniques. Drawing, painting, three-dimensional art projects plus research and reflections on various artists and art movements will be included in this 2.5 credit class. Some technique practice and art history research will be required outside of class. Completion of this class can count towards student's VPA requirement (25%).

### **a-g World History**

World History is a course which covers the beginnings and long journey of human civilization, from the development of agriculture, urban centers, and empires, all the way through the Industrial Revolution, the marvels and conflicts of the 20th century, and the emergence of the modern nation-state. Students analyze ideas and content in assigned readings, take quizzes and exams, and create projects based on historical events and personalities. The course is designed to be taught in one of Alder Grove's computer labs, where students will receive content in multimedia formats and be able to engage in critical reading, writing, and thinking around the knowledge which encompasses contemporary World History. An exciting addition to this course is the World Art History class which immediately follows, and provides an illuminating view of the aesthetic expressions that serve to exemplify the faith and perceptions of the ancient and modern worlds.

### **a-g College and Career Readiness**

In this class, students will develop important skills which will help them reach their post-secondary education and career goals. Students work through a process that answers the questions: Who Am I? What Do I Want? How Do I Get It? Students follow up with research and workshops that will help develop positive attitudes & aptitudes that promote College & Career Readiness.

### **a-g Evolution of Art: Renaissance to Modern**

This course will incorporate a variety of issues in art history - politics, gender, religion, patronage, function, ethnicity and audience. The class will focus on both visual analysis and context and will look primarily at European and American

artistic traditions. The course will consider a variety of forms including painting, sculpture and architecture. Throughout the year the students will be guided by Essential Questions put forth by College Board; What is art and how is it made? Why and how does art change? How we describe our thinking about art? Students will learn art history through experiencing art, contextual and visual analysis, lectures, activities, discussions, writing, reading, and understanding art vocabulary. They will learn to develop their skill in analyzing works of art including paintings, drawings, sculpture, architecture, ceramics, printmaking, and fibers. An emphasis will be put on learning works of art through context, styles, and meaning to determine century, culture, and artist.

### **Arts, Media & Entertainment (CC Pathway): Game Design**

This course combines three major topics: Writing, Animation and Programming. Students will be given weekly assignments and classroom activities designed to inspire creativity. Course will provide foundations needed for acquiring Adobe CC certification.

### **Student Council (grades 6-12)**

#### **FREE (THURSDAYS ONLY)**

This once a week class is open to all Middle and High School students, offering 2.5 units of Community Service (or possibly more depending upon participation outside of class time.) We will be planning events, assisting in elementary events, continue ongoing projects such as the High School dance and daily snack bar, and conducting leadership projects in the school and community. This will be a fun once a week class, with many opportunities to work as a group outside of class.

### **Friday Classes**

**Please Note: Specified Grade Levels**

### **Building Math Minds (invitation only) - grades 5-8**

Building Math Minds is a weekly 90-minute Math Intervention course that will be team-taught with 2 other instructors. The class will focus on number sense, fluency, problem solving, and math-confidence. Students, in groups up to 10, will circulate through three stations: Math Games, Rich Tasks/Number Talks, and a Computer Lab. They will regularly be assessed, through short, one-on-one conferences, to track progress and areas of need.

### **Beginning Piano (grades 4-12)**

Beginning piano skills with no experience necessary.

### **Choir 2 (grades 4-12)**

Students will learn basic skills in singing as a group for older and/or more experienced singers.

### **Ballet/Jazz (grades 5-12)**

In this dance class, we will be learning ballet fundamentals and fun jazz and modern dance moves. The students will work together to pick a song and choreograph a dance that is performed at the end of the semester.

### **Beginning Drumming/Percussion (grades 5-12)**

Start your Friday with a BANG! This class focuses on providing an overview of drumming and various percussion techniques. The focus of the class is on techniques to play snare drum and then transfer those skills to drum set. It will also cover the basics of hand drumming, and introduce students to mallet instruments (such as marimba and xylophone) and other non-Western percussion instruments. Students will work as a group and increase their ability to creatively collaborate for a group performance held at the semester's end. Students will need to acquire a practice pad and drum sticks (through their budget) to succeed in developing their skills and for this class.

### **Orchestra (grades 4-12)**

Students who have played their orchestral instrument for a year or more are welcomed to join this class. We will play orchestral pieces and perform at school concert. Please note which instrument you play on the enrollment form.

### **Choir 1 (grades K-3)**

Students will learn basic skills in singing as a group for young beginners.

### **Dance (grades K-5)**

In this class students will learn line dances, partner dancing, hip-hop moves, multicultural dances, freestyle and dance steps to various songs.

### **Rock Band (grades 5-12 or instructor approval)**

This class focuses on introducing students to the genre of Rock music. Students will play songs which typify the genre and will also explore other types of music. Although students are encouraged to have some background playing an instrument or singing, it is also open to students who are willing to dive in and fully participate to the best of their ability. Skills taught are basic chord progressions, song structure, actively listening to each other and successfully collaborating as a group. Students will work as a group and increase their ability to creatively collaborate for a group performance held at the semester's end. Open to guitar, bass, vocals, keyboards, drums, horns, in addition to other instruments.

### **Beginning Flute (grades 4-10)**

Students will learn parts of a flute, proper finger placement, posture, pitch, tone, technique, scales, proper care, how to play various songs, and how to read sheet music, transcribe sheet music.

### **Musical Theater Production (grades 5-12) - year-long class**

In this class students will work on a stage production of a musical play: [The Headless Horseman](#). Every Friday we will start class with theater games, warm-ups, to build theater skills, and we will work on rehearsing for the play. It is imperative that enrolled students attend every class, unless they are sick or out of town for the day. If you know that your child will not be able to attend regularly, please do not sign them up. Each student will receive a copy of the script and a contract highlighting the production responsibilities at the first class. Signed and returned contracts will be due the second Friday of class, which will also be the day students will audition for desired parts. All signed up students will get a part in the production. Regular letters will be sent home with important information from the director, Terri Tripp.

### **Introduction to Music (grades 1-3)**

This class will focus on developing basic musical concepts. This will include listening to music and learning the fundamental concepts of pitch and rhythm through singing, games and practice. We will use more drums and percussion instruments once core skills have been developed. The focus will be on developing key musical concepts, including listening, and a broadening their appreciation of various Music styles from across the globe. In a nutshell the class involves listening, singing and playing music.

### **Beginning Guitar (grades 4-12)**

The class will introduce students to the basic techniques of playing the guitar. This entails correct hand position for body posture. Students will learn how to read guitar chord charts, tablature and will be introduced to the basics of reading music. Focus of the class is on playing popular songs which utilize skills being taught. Students will work as a group and and perform as a group performance at the semester's end. In my experience students on the younger end may need to practice slightly more to keep up with the curve, but are more than welcome to join.

### **Beginning Ukulele (grades 5-12)**

The class will introduce students to the basic techniques of playing the ukulele. This entails correct hand position for both hands. Students will learn how to read ukulele chord charts, tablature and will be introduced to the basics of reading music. Focus of the class is on playing popular Americana songs and popular pop/rock songs which utilize and

demonstrates the skills at hand. Students will work as a group and increase their ability to creatively collaborate for a group performance held at the semester's end.