

## Middle School Class Descriptions - Grades 6-8

(meet Mondays and Wednesdays)

**\*There is also a Tae Kwon Do class on Tues/Thurs. available to 8th graders\***

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

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 (FULL)**

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 (MATH 8 IS FULL)**

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 (FULL)**

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 (FULL)**

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**

### **MS Painting**

In this class, students will explore the medium of painting to create original works of art using a wide variety of painting media. Students will gain an understanding of the types of paint available, the differences in the finished products based on the type of paint and alternative ways of using paint to achieve artistic expression.

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

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

### **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 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 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, and will engage in a variety of projects.

### **Group B Art - Drawing Nature**

This class will focus solely on “the curious parts and pieces of the natural world” and will touch on Plants, Animals, Insects, Earth/Sky, Weather, Ecosystems, Life Cycles. Using a variety of artistic techniques, styles, and media, we will look deeper into the anatomy of each thing and will discuss some of the science behind the art.

### **Group A Math & PE**

In this class we play movement games while exploring basic math concepts such as skip counting, number order, counting on, even/ odd, patterns on hundreds chart and other skills.

## Wednesday 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 C+ Engineering**

Students will work in collaborative groups to tackle engineering design challenges.

### **Groups A & B Great Books, Great Art, Great Fun!**

We will read high-quality children's literature and then complete art projects inspired by the stories. Students will use a variety of art media, including watercolors, crayons, pastels, collage materials, and more.

### **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.

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

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

### **Group A Playing at Reading & Writing**

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

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

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

### **Group C+ Women Artists: A Hands-On Approach**

This class is an opportunity for students to be creative, have fun, and learn more about making and appreciating art. We will study several women artists, learn about the challenges they have faced, and the art movements they represent and have helped pioneer. Then we will complete art projects inspired by the artists' work. We will explore a variety of art materials, which may include pastels, watercolor, dry tempera, gouache, and collage.

### **Group C+ and High School The Art of Storytelling and Puppet Theater**

In this class students will learn and practice the art of storytelling and puppet theater. They will perform for their peers weekly and will end the semester with a performance for our school community. Each student will make and design a wooden spoon puppet for the final show. **High school students can get 2.5 credits if they complete weekly homework assignments.**

### **MS Intro to Web Design & Data**

Learning about important uses of design/data in a variety of industries. Students will create their own web pages, digital graphics and write code using block editors. If you have ever wondered how the internet works or how data benefits our lives, sign up for this class.

### **Group C Animation**

Students will take part in hands-on animation projects. There will be three major techniques (frame-by-frame, stop-motion, code based) and additional background on the history of the process. If you ever wondered how cartoons are made, sign up for this class.

### **High School Class Descriptions**

**(meet Tuesdays and Thursdays-unless otherwise indicated)**

**Please Note: Some classes have specified grade levels and/or prerequisites**

**\*There is also a Puppet Theater class on Wednesdays open to High School students.\***

#### **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 (FULL)**

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 (FULL)**

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 (FULL)**

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 (FULL)**

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 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.

### **Pottery**

Students in this class will work on hand building techniques with clay by creating beginning-level projects such as pinch/coil pots, basic sculpture, and other pottery related crafts. Additionally, students will receive instruction on a variety of decorative techniques including glazing, underglaze and carving. Students who already have experience with clay will have the opportunity to expand and improve on their existing skills. Students will be introduced to the workings of kiln and proper loading/firing/unloading techniques.

### **Studio Art for Display (Tuesday only)**

In this class, each student will select one or two artistic techniques to explore in-depth for the purposes of creating artworks which we will show in a group art show towards the end of the semester at a local venue for Arts Alive. Students will work to create finished works of art which are whole and complete and time permitting, will be encouraged to develop a body of work in a specific style which can be used to begin a portfolio or for display in an

independent art show. Students will be given assistance and resources for going out into the community to display their art independently as well.

### **Tae Kwon Do (grades 8-12)**

Students will learn basic strikes and blocks, how to escape common dangerous situations and learn conceptual self-defense, including how to use body language and voice. Students will also learn the basic stances and kicks of Tae Kwon Do, as well as some Korean language and culture.

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

Continued project based exploration of video game art and technology. Students will be taught to work with image editing software, use 2D/3D game engines, and about key aspects of the publishing process. This is the second course of the CTE Game Design track, students are required to have passed GD1A or an approved equivalent course.

### **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.

### **Orchestra (grades 3-12)**

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)**

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 (FULL)**

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.

**Yearbook Club (grades 6-12)**

Students will work together to create the school yearbook for this year.

**Beginning Ukulele (grades K-3)**

This class will introduce the ukulele instrument and skills. Ukulele is the perfect first instrument for the young child interested in music!

**Advanced Rock Band**

This advanced class will have students working on refining their abilities as well as their ability to creatively coordinate with peers. For students who have previous experience (2 years is recommended) and are willing to work on their craft. Instruments played can extend past the traditional "Rock Band" instruments. See flyers at school for details regarding auditions which are happening soon. Contact [hilson.parker@aldergrovecharter.org](mailto:hilson.parker@aldergrovecharter.org) for details.

**Beginning Guitar (grades 5-12)**

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 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.

### **Intermediate Drumming**

For students who have completed beginning drumming or have prior experience. Contact [hilson.parker@aldergrovecharter.org](mailto:hilson.parker@aldergrovecharter.org) for details.