

## Jane Addams Middle School Elective Course Descriptions

### Semester Electives:

Art– In this course we will experiment with a variety of materials to create a strong understanding of the basic elements of Art. Some projects will include drawing, painting, clay and collage. Students will work on both two and three-dimensional projects. Along with the projects we will also explore different artists and the style they worked in.

Ceramics- In this course students will learn the basic hand-building techniques (coil building, slab building and pinch pot construction). Students will spend the second half of the course designing and carrying out guided independent projects that utilize these hand-building techniques while focusing on the artistic elements of form and shape. In addition, students will have the opportunity to learn the basics of wheel throwing on the potter's wheel.

Computer Science & Technology – This semester-long course will focus on hardware and software use, information technology and media literacy, and programming and principles of computing. This class will prepare all students for technology enhanced work in other classes, while instilling an understanding and interest in the mechanisms of computing.

Advanced Technology- A semester long exploration of computer science and technology that emphasizes problem solving and algorithmic thinking. Each semester explores a different topic, so students may repeat this course as desired. Some topics include computer programming, web development, app development, and robotics. Every semester will explore human/computer interaction, and the legal, social and ethical issues surrounding technology.

Drama as Expression I- Emphasis will be placed dramatic techniques and presentation. The class is structured so that students of different levels can progress at their own pace. Every student will be required to demonstrate their learning in class performances.

Drama as Expression II- Advanced drama students will study various plays and choose one to perform on stage before a JAMS' audience. Performance parts will include acting roles, costuming, and props. This will be a limited production, a short play, and performances will occur during the school day.

Leadership – This class is for responsible and innovative 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders who wish to make a difference at Jane Addams Middle School. Students are responsible for organizing and helping with ASB meetings, fundraisers, dances, assemblies, student recognition and other Jane Addams Middle School activities. Many of the aforesaid endeavors require students to utilize current sound and computer technology as well as practice and apply public speaking techniques.

MESA-This class is open to all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade JAMS students as a science elective. Students will engage in a variety of hands-on science projects, activities, and competitions with an engineering emphasis. Washington MESA builds a pathway to college and careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The class is designed to encourage and support traditionally underrepresented students in STEM fields, including African Americans, Native Americans, Hispanic/Latinos, Pacific Islanders and women.

Music Appreciation- What makes a good song? This general music course will explore a wide variety of musical styles from different cultures and time periods. Students will gain a better understanding of what they hear, will learn how to listen critically and will communicate their ideas verbally and in writing.

Physical Education : Essential questions include: How does body composition impact my life? How well do I eat and how does it impact my life? How do fitness behaviors effect body composition? How can activity influence body composition? Students will focus on core fitness principles and follow the Five for Life curriculum series.

### Yearlong Electives:

**BAND** (ALL band Classes are yearlong. Placement is based on audition and/or SPS teacher recommendations.)

Beginning Band: This class is directed at students who have little or no instrumental music training. There will be time given to allow students to explore the instrument choices to better help them make the right decision on what they will choose for the year. Students will learn essential concepts and skills and will perform in three school concerts.

Intermediate Band: This ensemble requires at least one year of middle school or two years of elementary instrumental experience and teacher approval. Students will continue to build their musical literacy and instrumental technique. There will be three concerts scheduled during the year for this group. Please review the classroom policies and concert attire guidelines.

Junior Band: This ensemble requires successful completion of Intermediate Band or its equivalent and an audition. Students will expand their knowledge and skills through instrumental technique and literature. There will be three school concerts as well as other festivals and performances outside of school. Travel will be required.

Senior Band: This ensemble requires successful completion of Junior Band or its equivalent. Students will expand their knowledge and skills through instrumental technique and literature as well as explore more advanced concepts of ensemble playing. There will be three school concerts as well as other festivals and performances outside of school. Travel will be required. Admission is by audition or teacher approval.

Senior Jazz: This class focuses on advancing listening skills and playing techniques within the big band jazz idiom with the goal of making friends, having fun, and preparing students for successful participation in Seattle's premier high school jazz ensembles. A high level of commitment to personal excellence and dedication to the team will be expected. A week-long intensive day camp in August is required for all ensemble members. Travel to local and regional festivals and participation in community-based events will also be required. Admission is by audition only.

**ORCHESTRA** (ALL orchestra Classes are yearlong. Placement is based on audition and/or SPS teacher recommendations.)

Beginning Orchestra: This class is for students who have had little or no previous training on a string instrument. Students who have completed only one year of Elementary Instrumental Music may be placed in Beginning Orchestra. In this ensemble, students will learn the basic techniques of posture, caring for the instrument and bow, position, bowing techniques, fingerings, and basic reading of rhythms and notes. The ensemble will begin learning songs in unison and progress to playing as a multi-part ensemble. Students will be expected to practice daily at home and abide by the classroom policies.

Intermediate Orchestra: This class is for students who have successfully completed at least two years of Elementary

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Instrumental Music experience and/or met the audition requirements. Students in the class will benefit from further instruction in music reading and performance fundamentals with their chosen instrument. This group will rehearse as a four part ensemble. Student will be expected to practice at home.

**Junior Orchestra:** This ensemble is for students who have successfully completed Intermediate Orchestra and/or met the audition requirement. Students in this group are at an advanced level of instrumental technique and reading proficiency (demonstrating shifting and developing vibrato).

**Senior Orchestra:** This ensemble is for students who have successfully completed Junior Orchestra and/or met the audition requirement. Students in this group will be able to demonstrate concepts such as shifting and vibrato, and the class will further these skills and develop musicianship through the performance of more challenging music and performance opportunities.

**Chamber Orchestra:** This is a small ensemble for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders that have successfully completed Senior Orchestra and/or met the audition requirement. Chamber Orchestra is geared toward the very advanced student. Students in this ensemble will be expected to make orchestra a top priority, as there will be travel and outside performance requirements. Students need to have the skills needed for Senior Orchestra, while also demonstrating an understanding of tone quality and musicality.

### **VOCAL ENSEMBLES** (*Music Classes are yearlong*)

**Choir** is open to all Jane Addams students. Students will rehearse and perform a variety of choral music. There will be an emphasis on using solfege, sight-reading, developing aural perception (ear training), and basic music theory. While no audition is required for choir, students are expected to be highly motivated and reflect an advanced ensemble attitude.

**Advanced Choir** The advanced choir is for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who have successfully participated in choir at Jane Addams. Students will expand their sight-reading and music theory while focusing on performance techniques. Students are expected to be highly motivated and reflect an advanced ensemble attitude. Admission is by audition only.

### **WORLD LANGUAGES** (*All language classes are yearlong.*)

**First year French (1A):** This is a year-long introductory course for sixth, seventh and eighth grade students. This course undertakes the study of the present tense as well as other basic structures that allow students to express themselves in simple sentences. Cultural enrichment is offered to students through videos, current events, readings, music, storytelling and projects. This course not only aims to teach students to understand, speak, read, and write French at a basic level, but also to interest them in the life and culture of French-speaking people. Some specific topics covered in this class: alphabet, colors, greetings, introducing yourself and others, discussing likes and dislikes, describing yourself and other people, hobbies, numbers, telling time, days of the week, seasons, months, weather, food, and present tense conjugations...

**Second year French (1B)** This is a year-long course for seventh and eighth grade students. This course continues building on prior knowledge from French 1A and where students left off in their textbooks *Bon Voyage!* The study of the past tense is introduced, as well as other basic structures, which allow students to express

themselves in more dynamic sentences. Cultural enrichment is offered to students through videos, current events, readings, music, storytelling and projects. This course not only aims to teach students to understand, speak, read, and write French at a novice level, but also to interest them in the life and culture of French-speaking people. Some specific topics covered in this class: food and cuisine, clothing and fashion, travelling via airplane and train, sports, seasons (summer and winter), daily routine, cultural pastimes, health and medicine, seasons, continuation of present tense conjugations, introduction of the past tense conjugations of regular and irregular verbs, and reflexive verbs.

**Third year French (2A)** This is a year long course for eighth grade students who have taken two years of middle school French. This course continues to build on prior knowledge of French 1A and 1B and is equivalent to the second year high school course. Students should expect regular homework as this is a high school level course.

**First year Spanish (1A):** Students learn the sounds, grammar and the syntax of the language interactively through conversations, stories and songs. This course undertakes the study of the present tense as well as other basic structures that allow students to express themselves in simple sentences. This course is taught using a communicative approach, so students often work in groups and pairs as they build language skills and begin to learn about Spanish culture. Cultural enrichment is offered to students through videos, current events, readings, music, storytelling and projects. This course not only aims to teach students to understand, speak, read, and write Spanish at a basic level, but also to interest them in the life and culture of Spanish-speaking people.

**Second year Spanish (1B)** This is a year-long course for seventh and eighth grade students who have previously taken Spanish 1A. This course continues building on prior knowledge from Spanish 1A. Study of the past tense is introduced, as well as other basic structures, which allow students to express themselves in more dynamic sentences. Cultural enrichment is offered to students through videos, current events, readings, music, storytelling and projects. This course not only aims to teach students to understand, speak, read, and write Spanish at a novice level, but also to interest them in the life and culture of Spanish-speaking people. Some specific topics covered in this class: food and cuisine, clothing and fashion, travelling via airplane and train, sports, seasons (summer and winter), daily routine, cultural pastimes, health and medicine, seasons, continuation of present tense conjugations, introduction of the past tense conjugations of regular and irregular verbs, and reflexive verbs.

**Third year Spanish (2A)** This is a year-long course for eighth grade students who have taken two years of middle school Spanish. This course continues to build on prior knowledge of Spanish 1A and 1B and is equivalent to the second year high school course. Students should expect regular homework as this is a high school level course.