THE PRAIRIE SCHOOL

MAT Course Descriptions
2023-2024

GRADE 6

Music

Prairie Singers - Yearlong

Open to all 6th Grade singers, Prairie Singers helps students to develop their voices, musicianship, creativity, and teamwork. As we explore various styles, we work on vocal technique and music reading. Prairie Singers occasionally combine with Prairie Voices for winter and spring performances. Members of Prairie Singers can also participate in the March WSMA (Wisconsin School Music Association) District Solo and Ensemble Festival in March.

Intermediate Band - Yearlong

The Intermediate Band is a continuation of many of the performance-based skills introduced in the Beginning Band class. Students with at least one year of experience on their chosen instrument are enrolled in Intermediate Band. Students enrolled in the intermediate instrumental music program will develop concepts and techniques that will be further developed in the Symphonic Orchestra. The Intermediate Band participates in the winter Tunes and Treats concert, the spring Finale concert, as well as, the spring Concert in the Park.

Intermediate Strings - Yearlong

The Intermediate Strings class continues the basic skills and techniques learned in Beginning Strings. Students with previous experience playing a string instrument and reading music are also welcome to join Intermediate Strings. Focus is put on strong ensemble playing and musical interpretation. The Intermediate Strings participate in the winter Tunes and Treats, the spring Finale concert, as well as, the spring Concert in the Park.

Theatre

Beginning Theatre

Students will be introduced to the world of theatre and performance. We will move through units of theatre vocabulary, improvisational acting games, creating characters, and scene study. Students will study multiple types of acting, such as puppetry, masks, and physical acting styles.

Musical Cast

Students with a strong interest in music and theatre work towards the performance of a kids or junior musical production. Students progress from auditions to song preparation to stage blocking/choreography to memorized performance. Students in the cast *must* be available for all scheduled performances. Minimal after-school rehearsals will be a required part of participation in this class.

Visual Art

This exciting course will provide a balanced visual arts program where critical thinking, creativity, and technical proficiency thrive. Traditional fine arts mediums such as drawing, painting, collage, ceramics, 3D rendering, and fiber arts are explored. The art classroom will be a community of practice emphasizing exploration, risk taking, and problem solving. Students are challenged to make connections between art and their lives both in and out of school. Cross-curricular projects also play an important role in this and will be incorporated to enrich topics studied in the core academic classrooms.

MAT Course Descriptions
2023-2024

GRADES 7 & 8

Music

Prairie Voices - Yearlong

Open to all 7/8 students, Prairie Voices further develops breathing techniques for singing, vocal tone quality, musicianship, expressive singing skills, creativity, and teamwork. As we explore various styles, we work on vocal technique and music reading. Prairie Voices occasionally combine with Prairie Singers for December and May performances. Members of this ensemble can also participate in the March WSMA District Music Solo and Ensemble Festival.

Symphonic Band - Yearlong

The Symphonic Band is the link providing transition between the introductory skills in the Beginning and Intermediate Ensembles and the more highly developed performance-intensive program found in high school. Students with a wide variety of ability levels and interests will be enrolled in the 7/8 instrumental music program. The program continues to stress the pedagogical aspects initiated in the beginning and intermediate courses. In addition, students will be provided with a study of music encompassing greater depth both technically and musically. Many aspects of student development, such as individual responsibility, self-discipline, goal setting, and the ability to work with others will be emphasized. Performance opportunities, including evening concerts, master classes, clinics, and festivals will be provided - achieving a balance between pedagogy and performance.

String Ensemble - Yearlong

The String Ensemble is the link providing transition between the introductory skills in the Beginning and Intermediate Ensembles and the more highly developed performance-intensive program found in high school. Students with a wide variety of ability levels and interests will be enrolled in the 7/8 instrumental music program. The program continues to stress the pedagogical aspects initiated in the beginning and intermediate courses. In addition, students will be provided with a study of music encompassing greater depth both technically and musically. Many aspects of student development, such as individual responsibility, self-discipline, goal-setting, and the ability to work with others will be emphasized. Performance opportunities, including evening concerts, master classes, clinics, and festivals will be provided - achieving a balance between pedagogy and performance.

Intro to Band & Strings (S1)

This course is designed for students who have an interest in playing in Symphonic Band or String Ensemble but have not learned an instrument. Students will choose an instrument and spend the semester learning the fundamentals of reading music and playing the instrument. Upon completion of this course, students will join the ensemble appropriate to their instrument and begin playing and performing with the full group. Performance opportunities will then include evening concerts, master classes, clinics, and festivals.

Theatre

Musical Cast (S1)

Students with a strong interest in music, theatre, and tech theatre work towards the performance of a full musical production. Students progress from auditions to song preparation to stage blocking/choreography to memorized performance. Students in the cast *must* be available for all scheduled performances. Opportunities for students interested in the behind-the-scenes (technical theatre) aspects of the show will be offered for those interested in participating but not performing as part of the cast. After school rehearsals will be a required part of participation in this class. *Tentative performance dates: November 16, 17, and 18, 2023.*

Performance - Play Cast (S2)

Students will work on a one-act play that will be performed at the end of the semester for an audience. Students will be assigned a role in the play and rehearse for the final production. Opportunities for students interested in the behind-the-scenes (technical theatre) aspects of the show will be offered for those interested in participating but not performing as part of the cast. All rehearsals will be in class, except for one after school dress rehearsal and an evening performance.

Intermediate Theatre

Intermediate Theatre focuses on the study of comedic and dramatic acting, utilizing voice, body, and face, to create interesting characters. Students will explore improvisational acting, scene study, movement based acting, and self-expression. Additionally, students will learn a variety of acting techniques through scripted scenes and originally created material. Students will perform selected material at a final semester showcase.

Art

Visual Art

Through this course, students develop their creativity and artistic skills by working through a series of two-dimensional (drawing, painting, printmaking) and three-dimensional (ceramics and sculpture) projects. In addition to these traditional fine art media, students will experience an introduction to glass arts by rotating through the glass studio in small groups where they will work on a series of introductory glass projects. While gaining confidence and proficiency, students will be introduced to historical and contemporary artists. The class is designed to foster curiosity, skills, and enjoyment so each individual's artistic potential may be developed.

Computer Science

In this introductory course, students will learn the foundational concepts and skills of computer science (CS). They will transition from being the consumers of technology to the creators of technology, and they will explore how to use the power of computers to solve big, real-world problems. This course is designed to be fun, engaging, relevant, collaborative, and creative. Students will build their understanding through creative projects. This course takes a wide lens on computer science by covering topics such as the basics of programming, physical computing, how information is represented digitally and sent over the internet, and data. This course will give students the opportunity to explore several important topics of computing using their own ideas and creativity to develop an interest in computer science that will foster further endeavors in the field.

Study Skills

Learn tips and tricks to build confidence and overall success in school, academically and socially by developing your executive function skills! This class will build on each student's existing strengths and develop time management, study strategies, and goal setting skills. Keeping our focus on planning, organizing, making decisions, paying attention, solving problems and evaluating choices will be the learning targets of this class.