

Shenandoah Middle School



ELECTIVES

2022-2023

## **Band**

### **5th Grade Beginning Band - Begins 2nd Semester**

Beginning band is an elective class available to all 5th graders. Students are introduced to all instruments in the school band including Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, baritone horn and Tuba. Time is spent introducing students to each of the instruments and with the help of Mr. Jones, Mr. Risher and parents, students are guided in their instrument selection. It is also important to be mindful that all instruments need to be represented with the idea that a balanced band be created. It is also the policy to select only four students to learn percussion each year. Percussionists are selected based on interest and performance on a simple rhythm and pitch test. A limited supply of school instruments are available. The school is visited weekly by a music store representative to help families acquire instruments and to provide repair services.

### **6th Grade Band - Year Long Class**

6th Grade Band is a second year band building on the skills learned in the 5th grade. The class meets daily as an ensemble for 50 minutes. Individual or small group lessons are scheduled as time permits. Students are given opportunities to adjust their instrument selection to include Tenor and Baritone Saxophone and Bass Clarinet to enhance the band's sound. Students will perform in two to three concerts a year and have traditionally been the ensemble to perform at Shenandoah's Veteran's Day ceremony in November. In May, students will have their first marching band experience when the 6th grade band joins the 7th/8th grade band for both Showcase Night and the Shenandoah Memorial Day Parade. Additional performance opportunities are available including participation in regional honor bands. Students who previously were not members of the 5th grade band should meet with Mr. Jones prior to signing up for the 6th Grade Band.

### **7th and 8th Grade Band - Year Long Class**

Seventh and Eighth Grade band members meet together in a Large Ensemble each day for 50 minutes. The band begins its school year focusing on marching band and traditionally performs in four to five parades and competitions in the Fall. Following Marching band, students spend their time studying music that will be performed at two to three concerts during the Winter and Spring semesters as well as Large Group Contest in April. Students will also be selected to participate in Jazz Band. Students will be scheduled for individual or small group lessons given during each six day rotation and are allowed to utilize the band room for practice during home room. Students are given opportunities to audition for district and regional honor bands. In May, the band shifts gears and once again focuses on Marching Band as they prepare for Showcase Night, Memorial Day Parade and traditionally has performed at Adventureland in Des Moines. Students who previously were not members of the 6th grade band should meet with Mr. Jones prior to signing up for 7/8th

Grade Band. The Mustang Band shows its pride by working hard to perform at our best. Uniforms are provided for each band member.

### **Battle of the Books**

#### **Full Year Class**

Students in this class will be part of a year-long competition called Battle of the Books. Students will read and discuss books that will be used in the Battle of the Books Competition. An online contest will take place in the spring. Top teams will travel to another school in Southwest Iowa to Battle Books in person.

Students in the class will explore writing reviews of books. They will use the Battle of the Books list to read and then get instruction and practice with writing book reviews. Students will read books in a group to practice writing reviews too. The goal for book reviews would be to share them with other students on a website. Students will also be creating review podcasts either as an individual or in a group setting. Flipgrid videos are also used to share book reviews with other students. Publishing students' own writings might be part of this class.

Grading is based on the quality of work produced, sticking to dead-lines and the student's ability to work and collaborate with their peers in a team setting.

### **Choir**

#### **Full Year Class**

The Choral Music program is designed to enhance the musical, creative and expressive qualities of all students. It is a year-long course to provide musical opportunities for every student to learn the basic skills of singing, playing and reading music, developing song repertoire, broadening listening skills and experiencing the interrelated nature of music with other cultures and content areas. There are several performances throughout the year to showcase the new learnings.

### **Computer Science Discoveries (You can't take this class again if you already have)**

#### **Semester Class**

Computer Science Discoveries is an introductory computer science course. The course takes a wide lens on computer science by covering topics such as problem solving, programming, physical computing, user centered design, and data, while inspiring students as they build their own websites, apps, animations, games, and physical computing systems. Students will create websites, apps, and games. **(You can only take this class 1 time.)**

## **Digital Stream Full Year Class**

Capture classroom moments and student activities. Throughout the year you will design and produce history through the production of the Shenandoah Middle School Yearbook. Students will work in a digital environment, creating page layouts utilizing the Jostens Yearbook Company on-line tools. Students will learn the fundamentals of good design concepts for page layouts as well as the fundamentals of good photography. Another feature includes learning the skills of writing, interviewing and producing designs using technology. If you love photography, creativity, and journalism this is the class for you. Students also learn leadership, time management, and business skills. This class does more than make memories, it creates life skills.

## **Energy and the Environment Semester Class**

Students are challenged to think big and toward the future as they explore sustainable solutions to our energy needs and investigate the impact of energy on our lives and the world. They design and model alternative energy sources and evaluate options for reducing energy consumption.

## **Exploratory Ag Semester Class**

### **Course Description:**

This introductory agriculture class gives you a taste of everything that agriculture has to offer. From plants to animals to the business side of things, all areas of agriculture will be introduced for a better understanding of agriculture and its importance.

### **Units covered:**

Introduction to Agricultural Science  
Animal Science  
Agricultural Science and Technology  
Plant Science  
Agricultural Issues  
Natural Resources  
Food Science  
Careers in Agricultural Sciences

After completing the course, you should be able to discuss the following BIG IDEAS:

- \* Agriculture is all around us.
- \* Agriculture involves more than farming.

- \* Agriculture, science, technology, humans and the environment are interrelated.
- \* Plants are essential for life.
- \* Animals play an important role in our lives.
- \* Technology can be both negative and positive.
- \* Critical thinking, decision making, problem solving, leadership and communication skills are essential to making informed decisions.

## **First Tech Challenge Robotics**

### **Full Year Class**

It's way more than building robots. *FIRST* Tech Challenge teams are challenged to design, build, program, and operate robots to compete in a head-to-head challenge in an alliance format. *FIRST* Tech Challenge ... all skill levels are welcomed and needed, technical or non-technical. Students develop STEM skills and practice engineering principles, while realizing the value of hard work, innovation, and working as a team.

The robot kit is reusable from year to year and can be coded using a variety of levels of Java-based programming. Teams design and build robots, raise funds, design and market their team brand, and do community outreach to earn specific awards. Participants are eligible to apply for \$80M+ in college scholarships. Each season concludes with regional championship events and an exciting *FIRST* Championship.

## **Fitness**

### **Semester Class**

Each week students will complete station workouts or HIITS (high intensity interval training) that focus on improving their strength, agility, and cardiovascular endurance. Once a month each student tests out on the above 3 fitness objectives. This will show results in improvement in these 3 areas or show the opportunities required to increase in each of these 3 areas. If you enjoy a good workout and want to get into better shape, this is the class for you. Expectations for work ethic and behavior are extremely high for this class.

## **Foods & Nutrition**

### **Semester Class**

**(Students can only take this course once)**

This course is broken into two main units, Nutrition and Foods. During our nutrition unit, students will learn about essential nutrients and how our body uses them. We will practice proper meal planning and how to incorporate a healthy lifestyle. During our foods unit,

students will focus on the 5 main food groups, study these food groups, plan and prepare a food item for each of these food groups.

Topics that will be included in this course:

- Factors that influence food choices
- Making nutritional food choices
- Physical health
- Food safety and sanitation
- Preparing and serving nutritious foods

### **Hack Your Health with Genomics**

This class is an exploration into the fascinating world of Genomics and the human body. It is designed primarily for those students who are interested in medicine, nursing, medical technology and other related health fields.

Students will apply laboratory techniques to discover ways healthcare professionals can prevent illness, identify various diseases, and find the best treatment plans based on a person's genetics.

Students will collect and analyze medical data to diagnose disease and solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs. They will investigate disease outbreaks and explore how a breakdown within the human body can lead to dysfunction.

### **Interior Design and Fashion Sewing**

#### **Semester Class**

**(Students can only take this course once)**

Interior Design focuses on the elements and principles of planning and designing the interior of a space. Students will have the chance to design and build their own room out of a shoebox. Another project will focus on the architecture and floor planning using an online 3D program to design a home. Fashion will focus on the history of fashion along with current fashion trends and designing and constructing a clothing item. Lastly, sewing incorporates larger and more challenging projects from pajama pants to quillows, focusing on more advanced sewing skills.

### **Middle School Mustang Mentor - (\*8th Grade only\*)**

#### **Semester Class**

Students in 8th Grade who are interested in helping other students in our school - this elective is for you! During this semester-long class you will be paired up with an

elementary class and will go to that class daily to help within the classroom working with a student or a small group of students. You might be reading with student(s), playing a game, practicing flashcards, and helping with technology; all are examples of what you might be doing. You will keep a journal of what you are doing and learning. The teacher you are paired with will help grade you on items such as punctuality, reliability, and interactions with those you help, among others items.

## **Studio Art**

### **Full Year Class, but you are welcome to take this for a single semester**

Paint, sculpt, draw and more in this expanded art class. Since we meet every day, we take on larger and more complex projects than in the art rotation classes. Your imagination and skills will grow as we work with clay, oil pastels, watercolor and acrylic paint, ink and more. Many of our assignments involve more than one of these, making them mixed media projects. Sometimes we use less common art materials such as tile and plaster tape.

We will learn about the artists and art movements that inspire our projects. Most of our time, however, will be spent creating art. We will be learning how to use tools and materials along with the elements and principles of art, experimenting with ideas, problem solving and creating finished products you can be proud of. Come enjoy exercising the right side of your brain while creating 2 and 3 dimensional art!

Studio art is open to 7th and 8th grades. Projects are not the same 2 years in a row so that you can be part of this class in both grades if you wish.

## **Ten 80 Drones**

### **UAV Challenge**

#### **Semester Class**

Students fly, configure, reverse engineer, design, build and code. The Student UAV Challenge curriculum begins with principles of aeronautics and flight for a variety of industries (ex. film vs. inspection). It ultimately leads students through a series of focus lessons that reverse engineer how each system of the UAV brain works.

The culminating challenge is to replace the stock system with a customized Arduino-based flight controller. In working with electrical components, students develop skills like soldering and critical thinking through troubleshooting. Key focus lessons dive into concepts such as aerodynamics, electricity, computer programming and physical laws of motion.

As with all Student STEM Challenges, these concepts and skills are cultivated through the framework of innovation. Students model a business or organization that applies the technology to improve society. Competition will be part of this class.

### **World Foods Class**

#### **Semester Class**

**(Students can only take this course once)**

Students will explore foods, diet, etiquette and customs of different cultures and will relate the history, geography, and climate of a region to the foods they eat. Lab experiences will provide opportunities to prepare and taste foods from around the world. This class is a project based learning experience.