

## **BREWSTER MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS SCHOOL YEAR 2018-2019**

**ART: (6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grades)** Designed to develop essential art skills and to expand art experiences that are aligned to the DoDEA visual arts standards. This introduction to the elements and principles of design and art appreciation focuses on a variety of media including painting, drawing, sculpture, and printmaking.

**Graphics Communications: (8<sup>th</sup> Grade)** Designed to provide students in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades with exploratory and investigative activities in offset lithography, photographic processes, book binding, pad binding, and paper making. It includes but is not limited to building career opportunities associated with graphic communications.

**2 Dimensional Art: (6<sup>th</sup> Grade)** Designed for the middle school visual arts program and offers basic techniques of drawing, painting, and printmaking through a variety of media. This is a 9 week course offered for 6<sup>th</sup> Grade students.

**STUDY SKILLS: (6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grades)** Designed to improve note-taking, test-taking strategies, and overall study habits to include developing time management and organizational skills.

**SPANISH I (HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Only):** Designed to teach students to pronounce and discriminate among the various vowel and consonant sounds and respond to and to imitate authentic patterns of intonation, rhythm, and pronunciation. Students learn to give simple oral and written information by using appropriate learned vocabulary, word order, and grammatical forms, and to read silently and aloud with comprehension.

**SPANISH (SEMESTER-7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade/9 weeks 6<sup>th</sup> Grade):** Designed as a beginning course to introduce the student to a variety of areas of language learning. Listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills will be emphasized.

**MUSIC: (6<sup>th</sup> Grade)** Designed to introduce students in three overlapping kinds of musical involvement: listening, reading, and performing. The content is based on the DoDEA Music Standards and includes various concepts of the elements of music.

**BEGINNING BAND (6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE):** Designed to introduce students to basic instrumental music techniques as well as practice techniques and performance experiences.

**INTERMEDIATE BAND (7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE):** Designed to acquaint students with intermediate to advanced instrumental music skills which include, but are not limited to, sight-reading skills, pitch discrimination, and playing in tune.

**NOTE: Students must have completed one year of Beginning Band or be taking private lessons. Please contact Ms Goehring for further information.**

**ADVANCED BAND (8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE):** Designed to acquaint students with advanced instrumental skills which include, but are not limited to, interpretation and analyzation of musical scores, independent performance of all major/minor scales, performance as a soloist and in small and large group ensembles. **NOTE: Students must have completed one year of Intermediate Band or be taking private lessons. Please contact Ms Goehring for further information.**

**CHORUS A (6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE):** Designed to involve students in three major overlapping kinds of musical involvement: singing, performing, and creating.

**BEGINNING CHORUS (7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE):** Designed to provide students the following vocal musical learning experiences: basic fundamentals of sight-reading vocal music, distinguishing and singing two and three-part music, singing with ensembles and chorus, and singing in public performances and musical productions.

**INTERMEDIATE CHORUS (8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE):** Designed to continue the development of sight-reading skills, analyzing and rehearsing two-, three-, and four-part music, performing with small and large ensembles in addition to solo opportunities, singing a cappella, and experiencing a wide variety of choral literature.

**PIANO: (7<sup>th</sup> Grade)** Designed to introduce students to the study of the piano including, but not limited to, learning correct keyboard playing positions, developing listening skills; reading, writing, and playing notation in bass and treble clefs, and playing patterns and rhythm concepts with both hands as well as playing simple accompaniments and duets.

**GUITAR: (8<sup>th</sup> Grade)** Designed to introduce students to the study of the guitar which includes, but not limited to, staff notation and rhythm concepts, major and minor chord recognition, strumming and picking techniques, listening skills, performance as soloists and in group ensembles, tuning and intonation, and guitar accompaniment techniques.

**READING LAB: (6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grades)** Designed to improve reading achievement for students not reading at grade level through the use of a whole group instructional model with small group rotations. Major topics to be studied include the essential components of reading: vocabulary development, building fluency, comprehension, and structural analysis, study/reference skills and reading in the content areas. Instructional activities will be provided in a classroom setting using content area texts, trade books which are Lexile leveled to match student's instructional level, supplementary and reference materials, and software support.

**Computer Applications: (6<sup>th</sup> Grade)** Designed to assist middle school students in applying a variety of computer technology and its application to their daily lives. In addition to information literacy, the areas of technology introduced may include word processing, spreadsheet, database, Internet, e-communication, graphics, presentation and publications applications, and using digital and scanning equipment.

**Applied Technology: (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grades)** Provides middle school students an introduction to various forms of technology and technical systems. Career opportunities will also be explored.

**Creative Thinking: (6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grades)** Designed to enrich the writing component within all content areas as well as the STEAM component of the Science and Math content areas. Two sections will be offered in 6<sup>th</sup> Grade and one section each in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grades with a maximum of 20 students each. This course is taught by the Gifted Resource Teacher.

**AVID: (6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grades) Advancement Via Individual Determination:** Designed to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society. Students are responsible for weekly progress reports, binder checks, tutorials, Cornell Notes, and Learning Logs.