

**Washington GT Magnet
Elementary School
2019-20
1st Semester
Elective Course Description Guide K-5**



In this catalog you will find the descriptions for the electives being offered first semester at Washington GT Magnet Elementary. Please follow the table of contents on the next page to find the electives that you are looking for. This year the catalog is broken down into 1st and 2nd quarter. We hope this helps you find the course descriptions a little easier.

In parentheses after each elective name you will find the grade levels that are offered for each elective and the period they are being offered. Electives with an * require recommendation. Please note some electives are recommendation only and you will not find them on the choice form. If you are using the online catalog and want to find a specific category just click on the name below. If you have any questions please contact our Magnet Coordinator. Amy Wilkinson awilkinson@wcpss.net 919-856-7960 Extension: 26609

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First Quarter Core Academics

Language Arts

ADVENTURES IN LEARNING (K-5) 5th, 6th, 7th or 8th Period

In this elective students receive targeted instruction as it relates to their specific learning needs.

AUTHOR! AUTHOR! (2-3)-6th Period

Stories come from all around us. In this course students will become young authors as they delight in writing, illustrating, and making their own books using various art forms. Stories will be shared with other students.

***BEST OF THE BEST AIG (3-5)-7th Period**

Have you ever read a book written in rap? Followed an escape from an occupied country during war time? Take an adventure with a medieval prince? Learn a lesson about leadership based on a story over a hundred years old? During this elective students will discover and experience reading in a new way. Students will explore Newbery Award winning books and decide what sets these books apart from all the other books. In this course students will look closely at the criteria used to distinguish these books as the best of the best. Students will actively read and experience a variety of Newbery books from the past and present using thinking routines, analytical and critical skills in conjunction with literary elements (story elements, figurative language, point of view, and universal themes) and the arts. As they explore, discuss and debate the books through rigorous, project based active learning experiences (virtual field trips, drama, art, movement, music and poetry) students will discover what truly makes a book “The Best of the Best.”

BOOK WORMS (K-2) 5th or 6th Periods

In this electives students in grades K-2 benefit from small group instruction to develop their literacy skills. Targeted instruction will focus on individual needs of the student. The students will be involved in modeled, shared, guided, and independent reading activities on a daily basis while setting personal reading goals. Teacher Recommendation is required.

CLASSY READERS (3-5)-7th Period

This high interest course is designed for students who have a strong desire to read, but need practice in applying reading skills. The course will emphasize reading as a fact-finding process incorporating thinking skills. Students will be exposed to a variety of literary texts including the classics, fables, fairy tales, tall tales, poetry, and drama.

FAIRY TALES AND FABLES (1)-5th Period

Enter a land of fantasy and magic in this elective! We will use creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking to compare stories and their variations. We will learn about story elements such as characters, setting, problem, and solution. Crafts and puppets will be essential activities while also performing plays and using green screens and other technology.

I'VE GOT CHARACTER! (2-3)-6th Period

This course will allow students opportunities to explore, in depth, through literature, the eight character traits: Responsibility, Respect, Courage, Kindness, Self-discipline, Integrity, Perseverance, and Good Judgment, and learn ways to apply them to their everyday living. The students will engage in activities that develop communication skills such as listening, reading, speaking, observing, illustration, writing, and brainstorming while developing their awareness of the eight character traits. Students will explore books and characters which help develop good character.

LISTEN AND READ ALONG (K) 5th Period

Listen and Read Along provides readers with opportunities to develop strong listening and reading skills through participation in language experiences. Students will be engaged in activities that develop all types of communication skills: listening, speaking, illustration, and writing. Students will be introduced to different reading genres and reading strategies to gain control of print, and develop an understanding that print conveys meaning. Come listen and read along!

READING CAFE (3-5) 6th, 7th or 8th Periods

In this elective students in grades 3-5 benefit from small group instruction to develop their literacy skills. Targeted instruction will focus on individual needs of the student. The students will be involved in modeled, shared, guided, and independent reading activities on a daily basis while setting personal reading goals. Teacher Recommendation is required.

READING THE WORLD BELIEVE IT OR NOT (3-5)- 7th Period

This course will enable students to explore various forms of media which contain biased information. Students will begin to recognize and understand propaganda and will analyze ways their lives are affected by such material. Learning activities will include exploring media coverage of current topics, examining issues related to bias and propaganda in literary selections, learning about the motives and strategies used by advertisers, and creating and comparing articles and stories from varying points of view. Thinking skills development will focus on comparing, contrasting, and evaluating information; verifying accuracy of information by using a variety of sources; and learning to question appropriately to assess point of view.

SENSATIONAL SAGAS (4-5) 8th Period

Enter the world of fabulous folktales! Students will strengthen both their receptive and expressive literacy skills as they begin to understand and appreciate the three unique types of folktales. Fairy Tales, Fables, and Myths will be shared, created, compared and contrasted in this literacy rich elective.

SIGN LANGUAGE (4-5)-8th Period

This course will provide both expressive and receptive practice in signing the alphabet, words, phrases, and songs. It will also help students to understand the culture of the deaf population and how to counteract the stereotypes of the deaf. Students will explore poems and stories from different deaf and non-deaf perspectives and will have the opportunity to create a research presentation!

STORYBOOK FRIENDS (K-1)-5th Period

This course will introduce many types of characters in favorite storybooks. It will focus on the importance of characters and their character traits. Students will learn about fairy/ folk-tale, animal, and real-life characters. Students will communicate their understanding of these characters in a variety of literature extension activities such as puppets, character sketches, illustrations, published books, and dramatization.

THINKING POWER (1-AIG)-5th Period

Thought processes can be sharpened through directed practice. Students in this course will participate in activities to develop skills such as comparing, classifying, interpreting, and summarizing. Thinking Power is a language arts course designed to spark thinking in a variety of ways, encouraging problem solving and creativity. Planned activities incorporate the multiple intelligences observed in human thought processing. Students will participate in activities designed to address their areas of strength and to develop areas that need improvement.

WRITING REV-UP 3rd-5th-7th Period

Grab your pencils, stir your imaginations, and shuffle the papers for this elective. Students will be using the writing process as they become writers of letters, advertisements, descriptions, and short narratives.

Social Studies

THE SECRET LIFE OF WATER (4-5) 8th Period

The water we drink today has been around in one form or another since before dinosaurs roamed the earth, continually recycled through the atmosphere and back into our homes. Each year competition for a clean, copious supply of water intensifies. In this course, students will investigate special characteristics of water and learn how water is both a renewable and limited resource on our planet. Students will examine both drinking and wastewater infrastructure and develop a deeper understanding of how human interactions affect water supply. Throughout the course, students will make personal connections and learn to practice environmental stewardship through conservation and sustainable practices.

LESSONS IN LEADERSHIP/MAGNET AMBASSADORS (3-5) 7th Period

Students will study leadership techniques and the characteristics of persons that are, or have been, influential leaders in our country. Students will be asked to assume school leadership roles and practice techniques acquired through this course. Students will also serve as Magnet Ambassadors throughout the school year and give school tours and presentations. An application and teacher recommendation is required.

TREASURE ISLAND (1) 5th Period

In this elective, students will learn how to navigate their community and understand the world through the use of maps and globes. The goal of this course is for students to have a basic understanding and the necessary skills to read and use maps and globes.

US GEOGRAPHY (3-5) 7th Period

The United States is a vast country with a diverse geography, history, and people. Students will use the five themes of geography (Location – absolute and relative, Description of Place – physical and cultural, Human-Environment Interactions, Movement, and Regions) as a lens through which they can view and develop a more complete understanding of the United States. Students will learn about landforms, climate, history, and culture of the different regions.

Students will engage in a range of hands-on activities that will include building sod and adobe houses, creating a newspaper article about African-American cowboys, recording their relative location with compasses, and making a mathematical representation of an 1,800 square mile buffalo herd.

Mathematics

AHA! INSIGHT PROBLEM SOLVING (4-5) 8th Period

At the heart of learning is a constant search for simpler ways to solve problems. Hunches or leaps of insight often enable a person to see a clear and direct answer that has eluded others. This unit presents problems in six categories: combinatorial, geometric, number, logic, procedural and verbal. Students will solve a variety of puzzles that encourage "aha" reactions.

ALGEBRA ALLIES (3-5) 7th Period

This elective is designed to introduce third, fourth, and fifth grade students to algebra and develop their foundation in algebraic thinking, reasoning, and recording. Students will have the opportunity to practice computational and mental math skills use T-tables and variables, express and solve algebraic equations, investigate area and perimeter through the lens of algebra, and identify the commutative properties of addition and multiplication.

***Architecture AIG (3-5) 7th Period**

Let's build the world! In this class students will learn about different stunning forms of architecture from around the world, both from the past and present. After learning about the constructional elements of buildings they will get to create their own original forms of buildings to meet specific challenges. Their structures will be fully costed and all surface areas calculated to ensure they stay within budget! Students have built both on Earth and Mars so who knows where our projects will take us next!

ARCHITECTURE AROUND US (1) 5th Period

Architecture is everywhere. Students will discover the many forms of architecture and look for patterns in buildings and nature. They will use these discoveries to apply logical thinking and problem-solving skills. Students will use manipulatives to build architectural structures.

BOOK INTO MATH (K) 5th Period

This course will integrate literature and mathematics. While exploring a variety of literature, students will practice speaking, reading, and writing skills to solve mathematical problems that occur in literature. To show their thinking, students will create technology-based, written, and art products both individually and in collaboration with others.

***GEOMETRIC DESIGN AIG (2-3) 6th Period**

Students will dive into learning with hands-on activities that explore geometric shapes and concepts. They will begin by exploring the concepts of lines, shapes and making distinctions between 3-D and 2-D shapes. From there we will explore, create, design, and build tessellations, origami, platonic solids, and geodesic domes! We will also investigate and discover how geometric designs are used in the real world.

***LET'S MAKE A MILLION AIG (4-5) 8th Period**

What is profit? What is loss? What is debt? How does the economy work? How can I make a million with my newfound economic knowledge? In this elective your child will learn the answers to the above questions and will put their knowledge to the test to see if they can turn a profit themselves by trading real stocks on the live stock market. We will use virtual money and will award real prizes in our weekly competitions. On your marks....get set....profit!

***MATH AROUND US AIG (1) 5th Period**

Students will discover how math being used in our lives on a daily basis. This class will be an action packed adventure finding how math all around us. We will explore a variety of math activities such as cooking, money, art, and design that incorporate algebraic thinking, measurement, data collection, and geometry. Students will analyze, evaluate and create to solve real life challenging math problems. Get ready to become Super Sleuths!

MATH MAGIC (4-5) 8th Period

This elective is designed to focus on strategies of problem solving to foster mathematical creativity and to encourage enthusiasm and love for all things math. My goal is to help you discover the magic of math and the power of math confidence. I encourage questions and love making connections to what you are already doing in your math classroom.

NINE OUT OF TEN (3-5) 7th Period

Have you ever wondered what it meant when the weather man said there is an 80 percent chance of rain? When you flip a coin, what is the chance that it will turn up heads? If the phone rings, most likely there will be someone on the other end. Learn all about probability when you take "Nine out of Ten."

Science

Animals Animals (K) 5th Period

Students will study domesticated and wild animals through books,, videos, and hands-on activities. The animal habitats of home, farm, zoo, and natural environments as well as different animal groups will be the focus of this elective.

HOW THINGS WORK (2-3) 6th Period

Students will explore the fascinating world of gadgets, simple machines and tools in looking at how things work! This elective will allow students to build upon their mechanical knowledge and apply this knowledge to build their own simple gadgets, tools and machines.

INTRODUCTION TO ENGINEERING (3-5) 7th Period

Students will be introduced to 6 different types of engineering. They will be given a short description of the type of engineering, make predictions, test materials, investigate solutions, and make presentations with their team using the data and observations they complete. 21st Century Skills will be utilized as they explore each type of engineering field and develop deeper understanding of what it means to be an engineer.

KITCHEN CHEMISTRY (2-3) 6th Period

In this course the students will learn, through many exciting experiments, about simple scientific phenomena, such as physical and chemical changes; states of matter--solids, liquids, and gases; and the cause and effect of heat. Students will also learn how ice cream and soap are made.

LET'S GO LIFECYCLING! (1) 5th Period

This course will examine the lifecycles of plants and animals (amphibious, aquatic, insect, and mammal). Students will observe and study the different stages, how they are alike and different, and what is required to complete those lifecycles. The opportunity to grow plants and nurture life will be included.

ROCKS AND MINERALS (3-5) 7th Period

Students will explore the wonders of crystal formation, investigate volcanoes, and discover other geological phenomena. This course involves lab work with special emphasis on procedures for accurate identification of rocks and minerals.

SEASHELLS AND SEA LIFE (1) 5th Period

Students will be transported to one of the most fascinating ecosystems on our planet, the seashore. At this special ecological juncture of both sand and sea, a rich multiplicity of life forms are surviving, thriving, and interacting with each other. Your child will explore the seashore through books, videos, sensory bins, crafts and hands on activities.

***ZOOLOGY – AIG (4-5) 8th Period**

Calling all animal lovers from the bottom of the ocean to high in the air. Zoology deals with classifying animal life, growth, behavior, and conservation. Students will build models of food chains and do in-depth projects investigating different species of vertebrates and invertebrates. They will also explore careers in zoology.

First Quarter “Other”

Contemporary Arts

FINE FOR ME (K) 5th Period

Ready, Set, Cut, Trace, Build, Create and Write. Join in for a fun way to develop fine motor control, eye-hand coordination and handwriting skills.

Media/Technology

SCHOOL NEWS TODAY (4-5) 8th Period

The primary purpose of this elective is to produce our weekly WZRD News Show to present important school information and events. Students who participate in this elective will study concepts of presentation: speaking, diction, personality, celebrity, marketing, branding and advertising. Research, writing, editing and reporting as well as incorporating new technologies to produce each program, are prime focus areas.

SUPER SLEUTH (3-5) 7th Period

Do you have a question that needs an answer? Chances are you can find it in the library – If you know how! In this course, students will learn to use a variety of resources in both print and electronic formats to locate information. Hands-on activities and in-class projects will help students become familiar with the almanac, atlas, encyclopedia, thesaurus, and other resources. Students will also learn skills for searching “Destiny” (the online media catalog) and for searching and evaluating various Internet sources. Prerequisite to be a Junior Librarian.

Performing Arts

ADVANCED BAND (Pathway to Band 2) Year-Long (4-5) 8th Period

This course is designed for continuing musicians in 4th and 5th grade. Students must have successfully completed the Beginning Band curriculum in order to take the Concert Band class. This ensemble is comprised of brass, woodwind and percussion students. This class meets 8th period, Monday-Thursday each week. Students study technique exercises as well as prepare pieces to perform at public concerts. The concert band gives a minimum of 3 concerts per year for parents and community members.

ADVANCED Orchestra (Pathway to Orchestra 2)Year-Long (4-5) 8th period

Advanced orchestra is designed for students with previous experience playing a stringed instrument. Students should have at least 2 years playing experience. Students will continue to build on techniques learned in Pathway to the Orchestra I and develop them further. They will perform 2-4 times throughout the year.

BEGINNING BAND (Pathway to Band 1)Year-Long (3-4) 6th or 7th Period

This course is designed for new musicians! Students in 3rd and 4th grade may sign up for Beginning Band and learn to play one of the following instruments: flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone or percussion. This class meets 6th and 7th period, Monday-Thursday each week. The 6th-period beginning band class is comprised of brass (trumpet and trombone) and percussion students, while the 7th-period beginning band class is comprised of flute and clarinet students. Students will need to either rent or purchase an instrument for the duration of the school year. We do have a few school instruments, which can be rented to students should they need them. The beginning band performs a minimum of 3 concerts per year for parents and community members.

BEGINNING Orchestra (Pathway to Orchestra 1)Year-Long (3) 6th period

This course is designed for students who have little or no experience playing one of the four string instruments: violin, viola, cello and bass. In this class students will learn the basics about their instrument. They will perform in two concerts throughout the year, one in the fall and one in the spring. No experience is necessary for this class.

CONTINUING Orchestra (Pathway to Orchestra 2) Year-Long (3-5) 7th period

Continuing orchestra is designed for students with at least 1 year playing experience either through Pathway to the Orchestra I or equivalent. Students will learn intermediate techniques and will perform in 2 concerts throughout the year.

CREATIVE DRAMATICS (3-5) 7th Period

This course will give students the opportunity to learn about acting and the stage in a low stakes environment. They will explore their own experiences through acting, improvisation, and short plays. Students will expand their senses in developing characters and situations in process based activities.

DANCE FORMS(3-5) 7th Period

This introductory course in dance will provide each student with the opportunity to explore a wide variety of dance forms. These forms will include creative rhythms, dance improvisations, as well as technique in ballet, tap, jazz, ballet, modern and hip hop. A historical perspective of dance and its relationships within our society will be examined. We will study famous choreographers and dancers that are well known each form.

DIGITAL MUSIC MAKING (MUSIC THROUGH A VARIETY OF SOUND SOURCES)(4-5) 8th Period

Through this course students will explore both traditional and nontraditional means of digital music making. We will use Chrome Music Lab, Noteflight, Scratch, Garageband, and more to play and create music.

EXPLORING MUSIC & MOVEMENT (2-3) 6th Period

Through this study, students will learn how music and movement can correlate. Movement will be introduced through songs, poetry, rhythms, recorded music, and stories. Students will learn traditional movement sequences, and create original movements to accompany these various areas.

INTRO TO THE STAGE (2-3) 6th Period

In this introductory drama course students will learn about various aspects of the theater. Students will discover the role of the actor, director, and stage technician, and will become familiar with makeup, costumes, sets, and props.

PLAYWRITING (4-5) 8th Period

Imagination! That is what this course will require from young writers! Students will learn how to develop their ideas into writing. As they create their own plays, they will develop characters from fantasy, present day, historical, or futuristic settings.

SOUNDS OF THE WORLD (3-5) 7th Period

Students will explore the cultures of the world through music, movement, and instruments.. An appreciation for a variety of musical styles will be fostered through exposure to music from all over the world and the creation of some unique and interesting musical instruments.

STORYBOOK DANCE (2-3) 6th Period

How would famous storybook characters tell their tale if they could only communicate through dance? Many stories such as *The Three Little Pigs*, *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, *Little Red Riding Hood*, and *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* can be used to explore and communicate meaning through movement. Each dance will develop through the reading and discussion of the story and finally the performance of the story. The students will work collaboratively to

decide the choreography and have the opportunity to make props, costumes, and scenery for their performance of the story dances.

TAP (4-5) 8th Period

Learn basic tap steps and rhythms, learn about the history of tap dance and how it impacted American culture. Explore different types of rhythms you can make with your feet and create your own musical foot patterns. Tap shoes will be provided.

THEATRE GAMES (K-1) 5th Period

Through hands-on activities, students will participate in improvisational theater games to build concentration, stage presence, communication skills, self-confidence, and cooperative skills.

YOGA FOR KIDS (2-3) 6th Period

Students in this course will practice yoga poses to build strong, flexible bodies and breath control to calm the mind, as well as, play games and sing songs that enable students to deepen this practice. They will learn the vocabulary of yoga and hopefully will be able to continue their own yoga practice after this course is completed.

Physical Education/Health

FRIENDSHIP SPECIAL (1) 5th Period

This course will center around how to interact positively with peers. After completing this course students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the value and responsibility of friendships and personal interactions.

LIFETIME SPORTS (3-5) 7th Period

This course is designed for the student who is interested in investigating and developing skills in a variety of lifetime sport activities. Students will learn the basic skills, rules and regulations, gameplay and strategies associated with sports that can be played at any age.

NEW GAMES II (4-5) 8th Period

Students will participate in a wide variety of games suitable for this age level. Based on the philosophy, "Play Hard, Play Fair, Nobody Hurt," these games will promote the development of leadership ability in a cooperative group setting. Stamina and agility will be developed, as well as social interaction skills.

SPORTS ARENA (2-3) 6th Period

For the young athlete who enjoys team sports, this course will focus on basic skill development which is essential to succeeding in sports. The importance of physical fitness, good sportsmanship, and working as a team will be emphasized as students participate in drills and pre-game situations.

Visual Arts

ART IN NATURE (4-5) 8th Period

Students explore nature through artmaking by observing and capturing a likeness of the natural world around them. Students acquire observational drawing techniques through still-life and landscape drawing and painting explorations. Your child will create projects that capture

close-up and distant views of their natural surroundings while learning about connections to biology and ecology. Students also explore famous artists who use or used nature as their primary subject matter for artmaking.

ASTOUNDING ARTISTS (2-3) 6th Period

Students study the life and work of astounding artists to create “inspired by” masterpieces using a variety of art mediums and techniques. Students discuss the cultural context and creative contributions of each artist while expanding their knowledge of art history.

PRINTMAKING (K-1) 5th Period

Students use found objects and traditional printmaking materials to explore stamping, monoprinting, collagraphs, and block printing techniques. Students expand their knowledge of the elements of art and the principles of design while developing abstract and realistic printmaking compositions.

PUBLIC ART IN THE COMMUNITY (3-5) 7th Period

Students learn about the function and purpose of public art within their school and the local community. Students collaborate to create dynamic projects that enhance our school environment while inspiring positivity and diversity. Students use painting and sculptural mediums to create permanent school art installations while expanding their understanding of the elements of art and principles of design. The 4 C's are a major focus of this elective course.

World Language

I'M THINKIN' INCAN! (Beginning Spanish) (3-5)

In this beginning/intermediate class students will learn about ancient Hispanic culture: sun gods and building pyramids, to the culture & climate in Mexico, Central America, and South America today. Students will use conversational Spanish.

LARRY THE LLAMA TRAVELS THROUGH SOUTH AMERICA! (Beginning Spanish) (K-1)

Students will virtually travel through various South American countries and learn some basic Spanish vocabulary as well as information about food and sports...along with their friend...Larry the Peruvian Llama! Basic Spanish vocabulary will be stressed through songs, games, and play.

SPANISH FOR NATIVE SPEAKERS (Beginning Spanish) (3-5)

This class is designed for students who have already learned spoken Spanish at home or in another setting. We will explore the language, culture, and excitement of Spanish literature through the dynamic world of theater! Using a variety of games, exercises and texts, students develop a richer understanding of Spanish vocabulary while building on performance skills.

Second Quarter Core Academics

Language Arts

***BEGINNING LITERARY STYLES AIG (2-3) 6th Period**

Students will begin the quarter by becoming authors of the most fascinating book ever....their own autobiographies! Once we have established ourselves as authors students will embark on new adventures as we "Tour the World of Literary Styles" and fill up our literary style "Passport". We will participate in project-based learning that includes creative writing, games, dramatizations, and debates as we explore the various elements and styles of great literature.

BLOSSOMING WITH BOOKS (K-1) 5th Period

Do you love to read? This elective will expose students to a variety of authors, genres, and writing styles. When students are engaged in a meaningful book study, they realize that an author's words are interesting and powerful. In turn, they will recognize they too have the power to make their own words exciting and meaningful. Are you ready to blossom with books?

***Fairy Tales AIG (1) 5th Period**

In this class we take a long walk through the magical forest of Fairy Tales and take time to meet the characters and explore the fantastic stories and places that make up this genre. Students will explore fairy tales both old and new and will also get to plan, write and produce their own original stories using digital means and stop-motion animation. Hop aboard for a magical ride!

I'VE GOT CHARACTER! (K-1)-5th Period

This course will allow students opportunities to explore, in depth, through literature, the eight character traits: Responsibility, Respect, Courage, Kindness, Self-discipline, Integrity, Perseverance, and Good Judgment, and learn ways to apply them to their everyday living. The students will engage in activities that develop communication skills such as listening, reading, speaking, observing, illustration, writing, and brainstorming while developing their awareness of the eight character traits. Students will explore books and characters which help develop good character.

JUNIOR GREAT BOOKS: Battle of the Books (4-5) 8th Period

Students will read and discuss titles on the current Battle of the Books list. Creative activities will follow each interpretive discussion. Book commercials, memory joggers and mock battles will help prepare students for our competition with Hunter and Fuller Elementary.

MYSTICAL MYTHOLOGY: MORTAL OR MONSTER? (4-5) 8th Period

Mythology is designed to introduce students to the world of mythology. Through research and investigation, students will become familiar with Greek gods and goddesses and the stories associated with them.

***ODYSSEY OF THE MIND AIG (4-5) 8th Period**

Grit, determination, creativity, team working and flair are the talents needed here. Climb aboard the good ship Odyssey and help represent WES at the 2020 Odyssey of the Mind (OOTM) tournament. You will spend two quarters preparing an original play that may include such wacky

ideas as creating a vehicle that has an original propulsion system, making a balsa wood tower (disguised as an alien) that supports 120 lbs or bringing a historical figure back to life by using space and time creatively. Anything could happen in this most challenging of electives. If you are a go-getter that never gives up and wants to be famous one day, sign up and let's achieve great things!

PEN PALS (2-3) 6th Period

Students will be introduced to the wonderful art of letter writing in this elective, while simultaneously learning about some cultures around the world. They will participate in a variety of letter-writing experiences such as writing invitations, corresponding with a pen pal and engaging in imaginative writing scenarios. Emphasis will be on developing legibility and a personalized style in cursive handwriting.

SPEAKING OUT! (4-5) 8th Period

Students will explore effective communication skills, critical thinking, creativity and use of technology to make a difference in their community. We will participate in projects that raise awareness of issues important to students through advertising on school news, art projects, letter writing and other methods. Students will also organize a book drive as part of the WCPSS WAKE UP and READ BOOK DRIVE.

STORYBOOK FRIENDS (K-1) 5th Period

This course will introduce many types of characters in favorite storybooks. It will focus on the importance of characters and their character traits. Students will learn about fairy/ folk-tale, animal, and real-life characters. Students will communicate their understanding of these characters in a variety of literature extension activities such as puppets, character sketches, illustrations, published books, and dramatizations.

STORYTELLING (3-5) 7th Period

The primary purpose of this course is to develop lifelong enrichment and personal enjoyment in storytelling. Students will participate in an art form as old as language itself. They will be taught the skills to become storytellers through practicing the techniques and strategies used by professional storytellers. Folk tales, hero stories, epics, legends, and original stories will be shared through storytelling sessions. Students will focus on the elements of a story while reading, viewing, and listening to various types of tales. They will be encouraged to retell these stories in their own words using various prompts such as flannel boards, puppets, pictures, and the like using appropriate voice control and expression. Students will remain actively involved as they apply skills in reading, writing, speaking, and critical thinking to create and present their own stories.

Social Studies

CHARACTER ON TRIAL (3-5) 7th Period

Character on Trial offers children the opportunity to make global connections between character and the law by considering a variety of multicultural fairy tales from multiple perspectives and, ultimately, bringing a familiar villain to trial. Students will learn about the evolution of our own legal system and its unique place in world history.

CRADLES OF CIVILIZATION (2-3) 6th Period

Students will spend 8 weeks discovering the history and culture behind 4 of the major civilizations that have been influential in shaping our world today. Students will explore, create crafts, role play, read and write literature while taking an in-depth look at Greece, China, Egypt, and Rome.

DANCING AND PLAYING AROUND THE WORLD (K-1) 5th Period

Dancing and Playing Around the World is filled with a variety of games and dances that reflect our worldwide cultural diversity. This is a wonderful opportunity for children to explore different cultures through dance and movement activities as well as language and enrichment experiences. As the children explore dances and games from all over the world, they will develop geography skills, writing skills, knowledge of the different continents and countries, and an appreciation for the various cultures in our global community.

LIBERTY! THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION (3-5) 7th Period

Liberty explores the beginnings of our country. The course will explore the the historical background of the events that shaped our country's independence from Britain. This elective describes the conflicting views held by American colonists and the British government. Students will learn about the problems that arose for England and the colonies. Students will learn how the colonists finally declared their independence, fought to make independence a reality, and formed a new nation. We will look at the behind-the-scenes of decisions made by military leaders. We will look at what life was like for soldiers and for everyday civilians.

LET'S CELEBRATE (2-3) 6th Period

Join us on a trip around the world as we learn about many wonderful celebrations and festivals of different people, cultures, and countries. We will experience music, recipes, language and multi-sensory activities; as well as practice our geography skills while we study holidays around the world. Come celebrate with us as we learn to appreciate the many differences and, more importantly, the similarities between so many diverse and interesting cultures.

Mathematics

***ALGEBRA ALLIES (At the Mall 3M) AIG (4-5) 8th Period**

Students will be developing their algebraic reasoning where they will investigate variables, expressions, and equations. They will play games and solve puzzles to help them learn about how variables can represent varying quantities as well as unknown values. They will write mathematical expressions using symbols and learn some informal methods for determining an unknown value.

GEOMETRY JOURNEYS (K-1) 5th Period

Children will partake in hands-on activities that explore geometric shapes and concepts. They will analyze similarities and differences among varying 2D and 3D shapes. Students will take part in station-based learning as they make geometric discoveries, and will create and think critically about shapes using many exciting technology tools.

GROUP SOLUTIONS ((2-3) 6th Period

Group Solutions explores Mathematics in new and exciting ways through cooperative logic games and activities! Students will broaden their understanding of numerical relationships,

computation, geometry, discrete mathematics, functions, and logic. The focus on cooperation helps students become contributing members of a group of collective thinkers.

MULTIPLICATION AND DIVISION (3-5) 7th Period

This course will provide students with practice using multiplication and division facts through use of drill and practice, games, and applications.

MOOLAH MANIA (3-5) 7th Period

This course is an introduction to economics for elementary students. It teaches the value of money in our society and simulates businesses so that students can really understand economics in the real world. For poorly motivated students, the power of money can spark interest in learning.

Science

***Come Fly with Me AIG (1) 5th Period**

What is flying? How can heavy objects like planes fly? How can birds fly? Why can't I fly without a machine or fake wings?

In this class students make planes, make rockets, fly balloons and will learn about the physics of flight from Newton's Laws to NASA to their real-life experiments. Everything from gravity to air pressure is covered so get ready to take off and sign up today!

***ECOLOGY AIG (3-5) 7th Period**

In this class students will take a closer look at the natural world and the delicate balance needed for a healthy environment. We will look at how humans have made an impact, both positive and negative, on the environment. This class is partners with NC State and Duke University Marine Lab to learn about an enormous pollution problem called marine debris. We will discover issues surrounding marine debris and engage in experiential learning based on local ecosystems.

HOW THINGS WORK (K-1) 5th Period

Students will explore the fascinating world of gadgets and tools in looking at how things work! Tools, machines, gears, and other gizmos will be used as students build their understanding of how simple machines and tools make our world an easier place in which to live.

KITCHEN CHEMISTRY (K-1) 5th Period

In this course the students will learn, through many exciting experiments such as physical and chemical changes; states of matter--solids, liquids, and gases; and the cause and effect of heat.

LET'S EXPERIMENT (4-5) 8th Period

Did you ever wonder how Sir Isaac Newton discovered the three laws of motion or how the Wright Brothers figured out how to fly? For sure, they made incorrect predictions along the way, but they learned from their mistakes. They made new predictions and designed experiments to see if they were correct. In this class, you will make your own predictions about science questions. You will view demonstrations and at the end of the course you will conduct your own experiment to test your prediction. Exploration of science concepts of motion, matter, and

energy will be your focus while practicing the steps of the scientific process. So, come along, and LET'S EXPERIMENT!

MAMMALS OF THE SEA (K-1) 5th Period

Ahoy! This course will familiarize students with seals, sea lions, manatees, dolphins, sea otters, and of course, whales. Students will study the fascinating habits and habitats of these interesting creatures.

***MAGNIFICENT MAMMALS AIG (3-5) 7th Period**

Caution! Animal Conservation under construction. Everything you have ever wanted to know about..... YOU DECIDE! In this elective students will gain a general understanding of mammals, and particular traits and characteristics that distinguish mammals from other animals. Students will then take on the role of Zoologist as they become experts on a particular mammal they "adopt" to research. As experts they will learn what their mammal eats, how it grows, survives and any other information specific to their chosen mammal. Our course will end with the creation of our animal conservation exhibit.

SCIENCE OLYMPIAD (3-5) 7th Period

Science Olympiad is a two quarter long elective that ends with a competition against other elementary schools in March. Science Olympiad is an opportunity for students to expand their knowledge in the areas of science and technology. Students are involved in the investigative process of science by doing hands-on and inquiry-based activities. Olympiad events involve teamwork, group planning and cooperation based on "real-world" science. Parental involvement and occasional after-school practice will be expected.

Second Quarter "Other"

Contemporary Arts

INTERMEDIATE CHESS (3-5) 7th Period

This course is designed for students who are knowledgeable about the fundamentals of chess and wish to improve/increase their skills. In addition to sharpening playing skills, students will study the history of chess, learn about chess champions, and learn how to make notations.

MEDIA/TECHNOLOGY

TECHNOLOGY WIZARDS (K-1) 5th Period; (2-3) 6th Period

Calling all techies! This course is designed to introduce students to the parts of the computer and their functions. Students will learn Internet Safety as well as respect for the technology equipment. Students will become technology wizards as they explore various technology tools on the computer and iPad. Students get to put their tools to the test as they complete a research project based on their interests and will share their learning in a Google Slide presentation.

ROBOTICS (2-3) 6th Period

In this elective students will program and control actual robots that they build themselves using specially created software and Lego building materials. They will begin by following step-by-step instructions in order to build and program a simple robotic model. Eventually, the students will be able to imagine an original robot, program its functions, and finally "bring it to life" in order to solve engaging and challenging real-world problems.

SCHOOL NEWS TODAY (4-5) 8th Period

The primary purpose of this elective is to produce our weekly WZRD News Show to present important school information and events. Students who participate in this elective will study concepts of presentation: speaking, diction, personality, celebrity, marketing, branding and advertising. Research, writing, editing and reporting as well as incorporating new technologies to produce each program, are prime focus areas.

PERFORMING ARTS

ADVANCED BAND (Pathway to Band 2) Year-Long (4-5) 8th Period

This course is designed for continuing musicians in 4th and 5th grade. Students must have successfully completed the Beginning Band curriculum in order to take the Concert Band class. This ensemble is comprised of brass, woodwind and percussion students. This class meets 8th period, Monday-Thursday each week. Students study technique exercises as well as prepare pieces to perform at public concerts. The concert band gives a minimum of 3 concerts per year for parents and community members.

ADVANCED Orchestra (Pathway to Orchestra 2)Year-Long (4-5) 8th period

Advanced orchestra is designed for students with previous experience playing a stringed instrument. Students should have at least 2 years playing experience. Students will continue to build on techniques learned in Pathway to the Orchestra I and develop them further. They will perform 2-4 times throughout the year.

Ballet (K-1) 5th Period

This class will introduce students to the art of Ballet. We will learn vocabulary and basic skills of a typical ballet class. We will also learn about the history of ballet as well as create own own versions of popular ballets. Focus will also be on flexibility, strength, and proper body alignment. This course will introduce students to the basic skills and terminology of ballet. Students will learn the history of ballet as well as the format of a typical ballet class. The students will develop strength, flexibility and the knowledge of proper body alignment.

BEGINNING BAND (Pathway to Band 1)Year-Long (3-4) 6th or 7th Period

This course is designed for new musicians! Students in 3rd and 4th grade may sign up for Beginning Band and learn to play one of the following instruments: flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone or percussion. This class meets 6th and 7th period, Monday-Thursday each week. The 6th-period beginning band class is comprised of brass (trumpet and trombone) and percussion students, while the 7th-period beginning band class is comprised of flute and clarinet students. Students will need to either rent or purchase an instrument for the duration of the school year. We do have a few school instruments, which can be rented to students should they need them. The beginning band performs a minimum of 3 concerts per year for parents and community members.

BEGINNING Orchestra (Pathway to Orchestra 1) Year-Long (3) 6th period

This course is designed for students who have little or no experience playing one of the four string instruments: violin, viola, cello and bass. In this class students will learn the basics about their instrument. They will perform in two concerts throughout the year, one in the fall and one in the spring. No experience is necessary for this class.

CONTINUING Orchestra (Pathway to Orchestra 2) Year-Long (3-5) 7th period

Continuing orchestra is designed for students with at least 1 year playing experience either through Pathway to the Orchestra I or equivalent. Students will learn intermediate techniques and will perform in 2 concerts throughout the year.

Creative Dance (2-3) 6th Period

We will learn the basic elements of creative movement. Body, time, space, and energy. We will explore various ways of moving and creating through improvisation, collaboration, and use our creativity to express ourselves.

KEYBOARD BY SIGHT AND SOUND I (4-5) 8th Period

In this course, the student will learn to play a keyboard instrument. Designed for students with no previous keyboard experience, the basic fundamentals of music and playing technique will be presented.

MUSIC WE CAN SING AND PLAY (K-1) 5th Period

Through a sequential, vocal/instrumental approach, children will be introduced to singing games played throughout the world. Through this process, there will be an emphasis will be on both rhythmic and melodic reading and notation.

“ORFF”-ESTRA (2-3) 6th Period

This course is based on Carl Orff's unique approach to music. Students will be exposed to a variety of activities (singing, chanting rhymes, dancing, keeping a beat, and playing instruments) that will enhance their natural way of learning music. Special instruments will be used to insure successful music experiences. "Orff"-estra introduces students to a lifetime of pleasure in music.

PAGE TO STAGE (4-5) 8th Period

In this introductory drama course students will learn about the process of putting on a theatre production. We will explore the role of the playwright, director, actors, and various types of designers. Students will explore

THEATRE GAMES (K-1) 5th Period

Through hands-on activities, students will participate in improvisational theater games to build concentration, stage presence, communication skills, self-confidence, and cooperative skills.

THEATER PRODUCTION (4-5) 7th Period

Students will work with the Arts Team (dance, music, and drama teachers) to produce a full length musical production. Student will be involved in this elective for 2 quarters and will be on stage singing, dancing, and acting.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH

FRIENDSHIP SPECIAL (K) 5th Period

This course will center around how to interact positively with peers. After completing this course students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the value and responsibility of friendships and personal interactions.

INTERNATIONAL GAMES (2-3) 6th Period

This elective will introduce a variety of games played in different countries around the world. Students will learn about the country's location, culture, traditions, language. Working as a team and good sportsmanship will be emphasized during this course.

JUGGLING (4-5) 8th Period

This course is designed for students who are interested in learning about juggling and other eye hand coordination activities. Some of the equipment that will be used includes scarves, balls, Flower Sticks, Chinese Yo-Yo, and spinning plates.

RACKET SPORTS (3-5) 7th Period

This elective will allow students to explore a variety of racket sports- tennis, badminton and table tennis. Introduction to the fundamental skills will allow students to improve their skills in serving, forehand and backhand. Students will work individually, with partners, and in small groups to learn how to keep score and referee the games.

VISUAL ARTS

Behind the Scenes (5) 7th Period

Students will design, construct, and paint the scenery and properties for Washington's magnet play production. During this elective students will acquire technical theatre vocabulary, technical drawing skills, scenic design strategies, scenic painting skills, and property construction techniques. In addition, students learn backstage etiquette and receive basic stagehand and lighting technician training, all of which are invaluable within the art and theatre community. Collaboration and team-building skills are a major component of this creative experience.

Calligraphy and Creative Lettering (4-5) 8th Period

Students explore a variety of lettering styles and techniques within this elective. Students learn calligraphy and script, serif, and sans serif lettering styles as well as creative font design techniques. Students create a lettering portfolio as well as name and inspirational quote posters. Students also design and create their own greeting cards.

Making Rainbows (K-1) 5th Period

Students develop a foundational understanding of color theory within this course. Students explore the following color concepts; primary, secondary, tertiary, complementary, warm, cool, as well as tints and shades. Your child will learn how to mix and make colors as well as basic painting and blending techniques. Most projects align with the color application techniques used by famous or master artists. In addition, students use color to explore their imaginative thoughts and feelings.

Sculpture (Recycled Cities and Architecture) (2-3) 6th Period

Within this elective, students explore the world architectural design and urban planning through sculpture. Students learn 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional sculpture techniques while using recycled materials to create homes, buildings, and city blocks. As a culminating activity, the individual city blocks are assembled to create a dynamic collaborative city.

WORLD LANGUAGE

CULTURAL KALEIDOSCOPE (2-3) 6th Period

Cultural Kaleidoscope recognizes that cultures are dynamic and fluid. This study of cultures helps students to recognize that people share more commonalities than differences. In this social studies elective, students develop the knowledge needed to make informed decisions as citizens of a culturally diverse world. Students use various opportunities that integrate technology, language arts, and visual arts across several disciplines. Students gain knowledge of multiple cultural perspectives and identify examples of cultural diversity in the school and community. This course will provide opportunities for students to mentally formulate ideas and abstractions, utilize their artistic creativity, and integrate different core subjects.

LILY THE LINX? (Beginning Spanish) (K-1) 5th Period

In this class students will virtually travel to Spain in search of Lily the Endangered Linx! Through our travels, we will learn about medieval Spanish castles, Don Quixote, Flamenco dancing, and bullfighting in Spain while using basic conversational Spanish. There will be differentiation for first time Spanish students.

PACK YOUR SUITCASE... ¡Y Habla Español! (Beginning Spanish) (3-5)

This course will provide learners the opportunity to discover the latino culture of central and south america, as well as learn useful Spanish phrases and vocabulary for their travels!. Students will virtually travel to various countries such as Costa Rica, Ecuador, Argentina and so much more! The learners will be receiving a passport that will enable them to track their travels. They will also be receiving a suitcase in which to keep all of their "souvenirs." During each trip to a different country, the learners will be experiencing activities such as: recognizing different weather/seasonal as well as time changes in different countries, learning about holidays.

WORLD LANGUAGES-ONLINE

BEGINNING CHINESE (ONLINE COURSE)

In this online course students are introduced to basic expressions, words and phrases through engaging, interactive activities. Students' primary focus is on listening and speaking, accompanied by opportunities to practice what they've learned in familiar settings. The goal is to build curiosity and awareness about the Chinese culture and familiarize students with the target language. Students will be exposed to authentic cultural stories.

INTERMEDIATE CHINESE (ONLINE COURSE)

In this online course students build on their previous knowledge of Chinese. Authentic materials are used and paired with more reading and writing to provide students with frequent opportunities for students to interact in the Chinese language. The course uses interactive media including animated stories, myths and legends to help develop vocabulary.

BEGINNING FRENCH (ONLINE COURSE)

In this online course students are introduced to basic expressions, words and phrases through engaging, interactive activities. Students' primary focus is on listening and speaking, accompanied by opportunities to practice what they've learned in familiar settings. The goal is to build curiosity and awareness about the French culture and familiarize students with the target language. Students will be exposed to authentic cultural stories.

INTERMEDIATE FRENCH (ONLINE COURSE)

In this online course students build on their previous knowledge of French. Authentic materials are used and paired with more reading and writing to provide students with frequent opportunities for students to interact in the French language. The course uses interactive media including animated stories, myths and legends to help develop vocabulary.

BEGINNING GERMAN (ONLINE COURSE)

In this online course students are introduced to basic expressions, words and phrases through engaging, interactive activities. Students' primary focus is on listening and speaking, accompanied by opportunities to practice what they've learned in familiar settings. The goal is to build curiosity and awareness about the German culture and familiarize students with the target language. Students will be exposed to authentic cultural stories.

INTERMEDIATE GERMAN (ONLINE COURSE)

In this online course students build on their previous knowledge of German. Authentic materials are used and paired with more reading and writing to provide students with frequent opportunities for students to interact in the German language. The course uses interactive media including animated stories, myths and legends to help develop vocabulary.