

**Washington GT Magnet  
Elementary School  
2019-20  
2nd Semester  
Elective Course Description Guide K-5**



In this catalog you will find the descriptions for the electives being offered second semester at Washington GT Magnet Elementary. Please follow the table of contents below to find the electives that you are looking for. This semester I have broken the course guide into periods. I hope this helps you find the course descriptions a little easier.

Electives with an \* require recommendation. Please note some electives are recommendation only and you will not find them on the choice form. If you have any questions please contact our Magnet Coordinator. Amy Wilkinson [awilkinson@wcpss.net](mailto:awilkinson@wcpss.net)  
919-856-7960 Extension: 26609

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**CORE ACADEMIC SUBJECTS****Language Arts****BLOSSOMING WITH BOOKS**

Do you love to read? In this elective, first and second graders will be exposed 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 that they too have the power to make their own words exciting and meaningful.

**Social Studies****IT'S A SMALL WORLD**

In this course students will travel the world as they learn about the diversity and interdependency of people from around the world. Various cultures will be studied as students investigate the similarities and differences between people and places. Students will learn other systems for dealing with time, money, and measurement. They will also examine various foreign languages; study literature from other cultures; explore foods, and recreate customs from around the world.

**Mathematics****ARCHITECTURE AROUND US**

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.

**PLUS AND MINUS**

This course provides a sequential approach to reinforcement of addition and subtraction. A strong emphasis is placed on the use of manipulative materials when reviewing concepts. Many developmental activities are game-oriented to actively engage the learner. Memorization of math facts will be stressed.

**Science****AFRICAN SAFARI**

Grab your passport and suitcase as students will travel to the country of Africa! Students will first learn about the culture of Africa. We will then get our binoculars ready to go on safari and learn about all the different African animals. Students will complete a research project on one African animal!

**OTHER SUBJECTS****Contemporary Arts****CUT AND SEW**

CUT AND SEW is a course for beginners who are creative and love to make useful objects. Students will learn the basic steps in cutting out patterns, attaching snaps and buttons, hemming, and stitching. Take-home projects will be completed. We will make various pieces such as bags, purses, masks, and puppets.

**Performing Arts****1,2,3 Tap Tap Tap**

Did you know that anyone can tap dance? If you like to make noise and can count to four, you can learn too! In this elective, students will learn how to recognize and demonstrate basic tap dancing technique. At the same time, this course will reinforce primary math skills such as patterning, spatial and number sense.

**CREATIVE DRAMA**

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

### **MEET & MAKE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS**

This course is an introduction to the four families of instruments: strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion. Students will meet these instruments through stories, songs, films, and performances. Percussion instruments will be played. Students will learn to read and perform percussion scores.

### **Physical Education/Health**

### **NEW GAMES I**

Students will participate in a wide variety of games which focus on the joy of play, cooperation, and trust, rather than simply striving to win. These games are based upon the philosophy, "Play hard, play fair, nobody hurt." Activity level will range from physically active to quiet group games. Good sportsmanship will be emphasized as well as practice in basic movement skills.

### **Visual Arts**

### **PAPER SCULPTURE**

In this elective students explore a variety of diverse paper sculpting techniques. We will be constructing/sculpting with origami paper, construction paper, mat board, cardboard, tissue paper as well as found object paper products. We will also incorporate paper mache and paper casting techniques within multiple projects. Your child will learn to fold, curl, slot, coil, sculpt, and draw with scissors while transforming paper into 3D sculptures.

**4th Quarter**

**2nd Period-1st and 2nd Grade**

### **CORE ACADEMIC SUBJECTS**

### **Language Arts**

### **FAIRY TALES AND FABLES**

This course will offer an in-depth look at a variety of fairy tales and fables. Students will participate in enriching activities that will enhance the stories as well as help students work towards an understanding of two of the oldest children's literary forms.

### **Social Studies**

### **DANCING AND PLAYING AROUND THE WORLD**

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.

### **Mathematics**

### **DIMENSIONS AIG**

This course will present students with learning experiences that focus on understanding measurement through standard and nonstandard units. Students will learn how to estimate, use linear and area measurement techniques, and find area and volume. Measurement activities will incorporate problem-solving techniques and projects that ensure application of measurement concepts. They will create polygons out of various materials to measure the area, perimeter and volume 2D and 3D creations. Throughout the electives students will work towards the final building project – An original geometric house design!

## Science

### **KITCHEN CHEMISTRY**

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.

## **OTHER SUBJECTS**

### Contemporary Arts

### **BEGINNING CHESS**

Students will study the history and fundamentals of chess. Time will be provided for them to develop skills in chess.

### Media/Technology

### **WE DO ROBOTICS**

In this elective, students will build, program, and control various robots with instructions from the We Do Robotics (2.0) kits. Students will then use the skills learned through building the robots from the kits to create their own robots. Students will engage in challenges integrating their knowledge of motors, gears, pulleys, and other mechanical structures. Students will also use other coding and programming devices such as Bee-Bots.

### Performing Arts

### **INTRO TO THE STAGE**

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.

### **YOGA FOR KIDS**

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

**WE GOT THE BEAT (Experience with Music and Movement)** Through this elective students will learn how movement can correlate with other areas including music and physical education. Movement will be introduced through activities- cardio drumming and parachute, rhythms, recorded music, and stories. Students will showcase skills learned in this elective during our Spring Fling celebration.

### Visual Arts

### **MODERN ART ON THE COMPUTER**

This course serves as an introductory course for computer-based art-making. Students complete traditional art lessons in a very 21st-century manner while studying the modern art genre and the life and work of modern artists. Students use computer drawing applications to create "inspired by" modern art masterpieces while creating a digital portfolio of their work. From Mondrian to Van Gogh your child will enjoy learning about and making their own modern art.

## **CORE ACADEMIC SUBJECTS**

### **Language Arts**

#### **BUILDING READERS (Recommendation Only)**

In this eighteen week course designed for kindergarten students, they will explore basic curriculum concepts through social interaction and hands on learning. We will be building foundational skills for our emergent readers. Students will also practice their math and writing skills through small group instruction. Teacher recommendation is required for this course.

#### **LISTEN AND READ ALONG**

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!

#### **PUPPET PLAY**

Puppet Play is a creative exploration into puppetry. Students will learn and create various types of puppets, such as hand, rod, string, shadow, and more. This course incorporates literacy skills, reading, writing, speaking and listening, to develop and personalize puppet characters while developing life skills of critical thinking, communication, cooperation and creative expression.

#### **\*THINKING POWER-AIG (K ONLY)**

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.

#### **PRIZE WINNERS**

Let's celebrate the winners! Students will have an opportunity to listen and read award winning children's books that have been recognized for excellence. Caldecott winners as well as North Carolina Children's Book Award selections will be introduced. Children will develop listening and comprehension skills and explore various artistic mediums that the illustrators use to create books.

### **Science**

#### **COMPUTER CRITTERS**

Animals, animals, animals everywhere! Become an animal expert by exploring and researching the different animal groups such as mammals, amphibians, reptiles, fish, insects, and birds. Sharpen your computer skills and confidence while learning the fascinating facts and unique characteristics of each animal group. Students will use a variety of technology resources to learn about critters, and will create exciting, hands-on products to share their learning with others. Come join the animal adventure!

#### **IT'S FOR THE BIRDS**

This inquiry based science course will introduce students to birds and their characteristics, habitats, life cycles and role in the environment. Students will be involved in hands on activities designed to help them identify bird characteristics compared with those of other creatures, identify and classify different types of birds, and build an understanding of a bird's life cycle and the roles birds play in their environment. Students will develop their own questions about birds and throughout the course of the elective discover the answers by participating in learning experiences such as experiments, reading, research, and first hand observations.

## **OTHER SUBJECTS**

### **Performing Arts**

#### **RHYTHM BAND**

Students will learn to play various rhythm instruments correctly. They will experience a variety of activities using the fundamentals of rhythm. Students will learn to read simple percussion scores.

#### **EXPLORING DANCE STYLES**

In this introductory course to the basic movement principles that pertain to all dance styles, students will begin to develop strength, coordination, and flexibility. We will spend time learning skills in ballet, tap, jazz, modern, hip hop and creative dance.

#### **PUPPET PLAY**

Puppet Play is a creative exploration into puppetry. Students will learn and create various types of puppets, such as hand, rod, string, shadow, and more. This course incorporates literacy skills, reading, writing, speaking and listening, to develop and personalize puppet characters while developing life skills of critical thinking, communication, cooperation and creative expression.

### **Visual Arts**

#### **ANIMALS IN ART**

Students in the elective will research, draw, paint, and cut realistic and imaginary animals. We will focus on expanding essential art skills while highlighting exciting facts about the animal kingdom. Elective students will explore painting, collage, and printmaking techniques. Overall, your child will have the opportunity to expand his or her art skills while gathering new information about animals and their habitats.

**5th Period-K and 1st Grade**

**4th Quarter**

## **CORE ACADEMIC SUBJECTS**

### **Language Arts**

#### **AUTHOR! AUTHOR!**

Within every child there are stories of value. In this course students will become young authors as they delight in writing, illustrating, and making their own books. Students will enjoy the planning, editing, and sharing processes embedded in creating books; and they will leave the elective with several of their own published and bound books.

#### **SIGN LANGUAGE**

Students will be taught the concept of using sign language as an alternative form of communication. Finger spelling and signing of familiar words and terms will be emphasized. Students will use their hands and eyes to "speak" and "listen" to others. Students will perform at Spring Fling in May.

### **Mathematics**

### **Grin and Graph It AIG**

In this elective students will conduct a large number of fascinating different experiments so that they can get DATA. Once they have this DATA they will learn to display it using a variety of different graphing methods which will help them to easily see patterns in the DATA and reach meaningful conclusions. It is all about DATA so let's get going!

### **Science**

#### **AFRICAN SAFARI**

Grab your passport and suitcase as students will travel to the country of Africa! Students will first learn about the culture of Africa. We will then get our binoculars ready to go on safari and learn about all the different African animals. Students will complete a research project on one African animal!

#### **LEARNING THROUGH EXPERIMENTATION-AIG**

Students who are actively involved in learning science not only increase their knowledge of science concepts, but enhance their creative potential as well. In this course, students will learn the scientific method through participation in a variety of science experiments to learn scientific concepts. The “kitchen” and nature both provide the perfect backdrops as we make edible creations, observe weather patterns, grow plants in a variety of environments, and observe and document insect transformations.

#### **WEATHER WATCHING**

Have you always wanted to know how meteorologists predict the weather? In this elective you will learn what makes up our daily and seasonal weather. You will also observe and learn how to measure different types of weather. Through engaging hands-on science and math experiments you will become an amateur meteorologist!

### **OTHER SUBJECTS**

#### **Performing Arts**

##### **Dance a Story**

We will use creative movement to bring our favorite stories to life! Students will also incorporate elements of theatre such as acting, costumes, and props to help enhance our performance. Students will also learning the similarities between dance and literature during the creation process.

##### **MIME: FAIRY TALES AND FABLES**

In this course students will study nonverbal communication and pantomime. Students will use fairy tales and fables to study simple story development involving beginning, middle, and end, as well as demonstrate sensory awareness.

##### **STORY TIME FOR YOUNG LISTENERS**

Listening is essential and basic to all musical experiences. Through a variety of integrated arts activities, students will hear and study famous classical compositions, their stories/origins, and their composers.

#### **Physical Education/Health/World Language**

**READY, SET, SALTA! (Ready, Set, Move)** This a blended physical education and Spanish elective. It is designed to strengthen gross motor skills and expose students to Spanish language and culture in an authentic environment. The activities will include imitating body movements, identifying and using body parts, and manipulating their bodies in space. Students will learn a variety of Spanish vocabulary including colors, body parts, shapes, numbers, and food groups.



## **CORE ACADEMIC SUBJECTS**

### **Language Arts**

#### **AUTHORS IN THE MAKING**

This elective will inspire children's creativity and love of writing! Students will work with LEGOS to ignite their imaginations and support the learning of prewriting strategies, along with the art of drafting, editing, revising, and publishing to create their own original written products.

#### **I LOVE A MYSTERY AIG**

In this class students get to dive deep into some of the world's most intriguing mysteries - is the truth out there? They also will get to work together as detectives solving challenging cases for prizes and effort recognition. Also they will each get to play an active part in solving a first-person mystery simulation. Finally they will stretch their writing muscles by creating original online Choose Your own Adventure mystery stories which will be presented to the class. Move over Sherlock, here they come!

### **Social Studies**

#### **DESTINY TRAVEL AGENCY**

Are you ready to travel the world? This course will provide learners the opportunity to 'travel' to eight different countries located around the world by "traveling" to Peru, Mexico, Ireland, India, Australia, Kenya, Russia and Japan. The learners will be receiving a passport that will enable them to travel to these countries. They will explore each country and learn about food, traditions, weather, physical features, sports, art, literature and funny people. They will create a brochure, postcard or video after each visit.

#### **LESSONS IN LEADERSHIP**

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.

### **Science**

#### **ECOLOGY AIG**

The delicate balance of nature will be explored as students investigate water, carbon dioxide, and nitrogen cycles. They will study photosynthesis, food chains and webs, and numerous predator-prey relationships. Man's misuse of natural resources will also be examined as students are introduced to the functions of the Environmental Protection Agency. Students will increase their understanding and awareness of the many ecological systems within their own communities and how these systems impact our world.

#### **THE RAINFOREST**

Do you know the difference between a jungle and a rainforest? Can you name more than one type of rainforest? In this course learners will be studying about the different types of rainforests and where they are located. They will research a variety of animals that call the rainforest home and determine which layer of the rainforest they live in. By the end of the course, learners should have an appreciation of the many products that originate in the rainforest and the importance of protecting its existence. As a culminating project, students will construct a rainforest diorama.

## **OTHER SUBJECTS**

### **Performing Arts**

#### **BEGINNING BAND (Pathway to Band 1)Year-Long (Students must sign-up 1st quarter)**

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 (Students must sign-up 1st quarter)**

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.

#### **DANCE THE STORY**

In this elective we will take our favorite stories and poems and bring them to life through movement using music, props, and costumes.

#### **MIME: FAIRY TALES AND FABLES**

In this course students will study nonverbal communication and pantomime. Students will use fairy tales and fables to study simple story development involving beginning, middle, and end, as well as demonstrate sensory awareness.

#### **“ORFF”-ESTRA**

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.

### **Physical Education/Health**

## **TRACK AND FIELD (TEAM SPORTS)**

Ready, Set, Go! This course is designed for students who are interested in learning about and competing in track and field events. Through a variety of activities in sprinting, endurance, relays, long jump and jr. javelin throw, students will improve his/her physical condition while having fun. Our class will compete in a Magnet Track Meet against other Magnet Schools at the end of this elective.

## **Visual Arts**

### **FOOD SCULPTURE**

In this elective, students explore food as subject matter for artmaking, learning about how and why specific Pop artists embraced it. Students use their knowledge of Pop Art styles, mediums and techniques to create a variety of 3D food sculptures. In addition, students examine the history of the foods they are creating to establish relevant historical and cultural connections. As a culminating activity, students design, advertise and curate a collaborative mini Pop-up Pop Art exhibition that blurs the lines between gallery and retail space. Students utilize literacy, writing, collaboration, and math skills to install, describe, and advertise their food sculptures.

## **World Language**

### **LET'S CHAT! (Beginning Spanish)**

In this beginning Spanish class, students will be introduced to basic conversational Spanish through songs, games, and play.

## **ONLINE LANGUAGE**

**3rd, 4th and 5th grade students only**

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

## **CORE ACADEMIC SUBJECTS**

### **Language Arts**

#### **BLOSSOMING WITH BOOKS**

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?

#### **ODYSSEY OF THE MIND JUNIOR-AIG**

Can a team of students create and build a vehicle that will travel through an obstacle course to break balloon targets? Is there a way to write a script and perform a skit or play based on a thought provoking reading prompt or work of art? Teamwork is key as students use cooperative planning, creative problem solving, and the ability to transfer previous knowledge in new situations as they uncover unique solutions to various scenarios.

### **Social Studies**

#### **We the People AIG**

What came before the U.S.A? What makes this the Land of Opportunity? Who is free here? What is freedom and were people always free? What is the Constitution and why does it matter? In this class students will learn about this country's history from the 13 colonies to the present day. They will recreate the American Revolution using modeling and stop-motion animation and will work as lawyers using the 27 amendments to represent people in court. This is a challenging but fun course that helps students understand this land and what makes it the place it is.

### **Mathematics**

#### **SOLVE IT! K-2**

We're off on a great math adventure! In this elective, children will develop their problem solving skills as they are required to think both logically and creatively. We will focus on solution strategies (pattern, deduction, relationships, Inference, and sequences), rather than on computational practice. All of our work will increase their appreciation for and understanding of mathematical ways of thinking.

### **Science**

#### **BUZZ ON BEES: GIVE BEES A CHANCE**

Are you afraid of BEES-but willing to learn more about them? BEES are an important part of our environment! Learn more about honey bees and why we should respect them and not BEE so afraid of them! You will even get to create a plan to help save our local BEES from dying. Are you willing to "Give BEES a Chance?"

#### **MY GREEN THUMB**

Are you ready to use your green thumb to grow your own fruit, vegetable, or herb? In Green Thumb, you will learn the value of plants in our environment while growing our very own plant and recoding our findings through various data collection methods.

### **OTHER SUBJECTS**

## **Media/Technology**

### **COMPUTER CODING**

Computer science demystified. Anybody can learn the basics of computer programming. Students will use a blend of online software from code.org and cs-first.com to learn the basics of coding. Students will also be given the opportunity to code robots such as Spheros, dash, and dot using block code. Block coding is the most basic form of coding and will be easy for the students to utilize and learn the basics. This material stresses the use of logic and critical thinking by performing fun activities and culminates in students creating their own computer games

### **PHOTOGRAPHY: TAKE A LOOK**

In this highly-engaging elective, students will learn how to capture photos and use photography as a means of communication. They will practice basic camera skills, learn how to take pictures, and work collaboratively to enhance their visual perception through exciting class projects. Students won't be confined to a single classroom. Instead, they will be on the move, exploring school grounds and seeking opportunities to capture images that further communicate and tell their stories.

## **Performing Arts**

### **BEGINNING BAND (Pathway to Band 1)Year-Long (Registration occurs 1st quarter)**

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.

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### **EXPLORING DANCE STYLES**

In this introductory course to the basic movement principles that pertain to all dance styles, students will begin to develop strength, coordination, and flexibility.

### **CREATIVE DRAMATICS**

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.

### **THERE'S MAGIC IN MUSIC (CREATING & COMPOSING)**

Students will discover the magic of music through singing while discovering the joy of creating music of their own. In this course students will move through the creating process to explore, improvise, and create rhythmic and melodic compositions of their own. Throughout the process, students will learn to organize, and edit their musical ideas, provide and interpret feedback, and explain their musical choices.

## **Physical Education/Health**

### **LIFETIME SPORTS**

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.

## **Visual Arts**

### **CLAY SCULPTURE**

This course serves as an introduction to the history, style, and techniques used within clay sculpture. Students will create original pieces using slab, pinch, coil, clay building, and sculpting techniques. Students explore clay sculptures throughout art history while designing and creating original and "inspired by" work. Students will complete 2D and 3D sculptures using a variety of clay mediums while comparing and contrasting the properties of each medium.

## **World Language**

### **ONCE UPON A TIME... (Beginning Spanish)**

In this beginning/intermediate Spanish course, students will engage in conversational Spanish. Well-known stories will be read and students will participate through songs, games, and special activities.

## **ONLINE LANGUAGE**

### **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.

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#### **BEGINNING GERMAN (ONLINE COURSE)**

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## **CORE ACADEMIC SUBJECTS**

### **Language Arts**

#### **BOOKMAKERS WORKSHOP**

Ever wondered how a book is made? How does the author do it? In this elective you will learn from authors before you about the history of bookmaking as well as the art of bookmaking from start to finish. Then get your creative juices flowing as you become an author yourself, will have the opportunity to make a variety of books, experience different ways that books are published and create a showcase of published pieces. You will even come away with a published book to keep using Student Treasures publishing!

#### **LITERARY CRITICS AIG**

Many good books have been published in the last few decades. Is it award-winning literature? Young readers are the best judges of good children's literature and, therefore, become the reading experts in this course. Students read, analyze story elements and author's style, and evaluate selected award-winning literature to discover what qualities make books great literature. How do the experts judge literature? What makes it great literature? In discussion groups, readers answer these questions, determine criteria by which to judge literature, create rubrics to evaluate literature, and use rubrics to rate the books of award-winning authors that have not won any major awards. This literature study course culminates with the students creating book projects that best demonstrate the great qualities of literature identified in the newly rated books.

#### **OUT OF THIS WORLD**

Fasten your seat belts and prepare to blast off into the world of science fiction. Learn about the elements of science fiction by participating in book clubs with your peers. Students will not only read but write their own adventure!

#### **SCHOLASTIC PURSUIT AIG**

SCHOLASTIC PURSUIT reinforces the knowledge students have acquired throughout the elementary grades. Emphasis is placed on research, questioning, and listening skills. Students gather information to compete among themselves in mini academic contests. A team is finally chosen from this class to compete in a system-wide academic tournament.

### **Social Studies**

#### **IF YOU'D BEEN THERE**

Do you know where your individual freedoms and rights originated? This course will focus on the fundamental documents and principles upon which our freedom depends. Students will study such documents as the Mayflower Compact, the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, Bill of Rights, and the Emancipation Proclamation and will participate in activities that will allow students to feel like authentic colonists that lived during the time period.

#### **THE CRYSTAL BALL AIG**



In this course of study, students will be introduced to the concept of prediction, the ability to forecast future events based on concrete knowledge of the past. To make an accurate prediction one must make close observations, find relevant information, discover possible patterns, recognize trends, and infer what might happen under similar conditions in the future. As students hone these skills they will be making their own predictions of the future based on information learned from both the past and present.

### **Mathematics**

#### **GET TO THE POINT: DECIMALS (4th-5th Grade)**

This engaging investigation of decimals gives students opportunities to explore those tricky little “mathematical points”. The focus of the investigations is to help students make connections between the mathematical concepts represented by decimal points and real-life experience.

#### **LOGIC AND PROBLEM SOLVING AIG**

The power of logical deduction is a special thing. Let’s learn to think like computers. Let’s use logic to solve fun but challenging problems in a heated, but supportive, competitive setting. In this class students will work collaboratively in groups to solve a variety of engineering, computer-based, visual and spatial logic problems. They will work to earn Logic Bucks, our Spock-based currency system. These Logic Bucks are spent in our weekly auction - effort = rewards. It is amazing how much our skills can grow when we challenge ourselves.

“If the Sky is the limit, how come our footprints are on the moon?” - Logic.

#### **MATH IN MOTION**

This course will introduce students to the mathematics of dance. Each class will begin with a warm up that incorporates technique with the concepts taught throughout the quarter. Most concepts will then be explored using creative problem solving, and will have both written and movement components. Students will also generate their own choreography using math concepts and design their own rubric for assessment.

### **Science**

#### **SCIENCE OLYMPIAD (Registration occurred 1st semester)**

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.

### **OTHER SUBJECTS**

## **Media/Technology**

### **SCHOOL NEWS TODAY**

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. Students will produce the news over the intercom Monday-Thursday and a recorded show on Friday.

## **Performing Arts**

### **BEGINNING BAND (Pathway to Band 1)Year-Long (Students must register 1st quarter)**

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.

### **CONTINUING Orchestra (Pathway to Orchestra 2) (Students must register 1st quarter)**

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.

### **THEATER PRODUCTION (Registration occurred 1st semester)**

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**

### **TRACK AND FIELD (TEAM SPORTS) (3-5) (4-5)**

Ready, Set, Go! This course is designed for students who are interested in learning about and competing in track and field events. Through a variety of activities in sprinting, endurance, relays, long jump and jr. javelin throw, students will improve his/her physical condition while having fun. Our class will compete in a Magnet Track Meet against other Magnet Schools at the end of this elective.

## **Visual Arts**

### **BEHIND THE SCENES (Registration occurred 1st semester)**

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.

### **World Language**

#### **LILY THE LINX? (Beginning Spanish)**

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.

### **ONLINE LANGUAGE**

#### **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.

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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.

**7th Period -3rd, 4th and 5th Grade**

**4th Quarter**

### **CORE ACADEMIC SUBJECTS**

#### **Language Arts**

#### **IT'S COMICAL! - AIG**

Students will explore the different types of humor used in comic strips. They will learn to analyze techniques used by a cartoonist and examine the development of characters, dialogue, plot, and theme. After an in-depth study of a variety of famous cartoonist students will create their own comics!

#### **NARNIA - AIG (4th-5th Grade)**

Step through the wardrobe into a land of ... snow? And talking animals? Yes, you read that right. As we read the first of seven enchanting books, THE LION, THE WITCH, AND THE WARDROBE, we will study the author, plot, setting, and major themes of the book. This elective will combine both reading and creative writing experiences to bring the story to life and teach reading skills. In a book club format students will complete fun assignments designed to express their learning in different ways. So pack your bags and join me on a journey to the magical land of Narnia! .

#### **PUBLIC SPEAKING AND DEBATE-AIG**

This is a dynamic course designed to help develop students' speaking and listening standards in ELA. The first part of this course focuses on the production and reception of oral communication in three major types of public speaking: informative, persuasive, and entertaining. Emphasis will be on writing, delivering, and critiquing informal and formal speeches. The second portion of the course will be devoted to participants learning the elements of formal debate. Students will practice using these skills to debate issues in class.

#### **SPORTS FEVER**

So it's 1,2,3 strikes you're out at the old ball game! Touchdown! Score! Goal! Are you a sports fan? If so, this is the course for you. In this course, you will read a variety of literature that focuses on sports and athletes. Students will explore the role of sports in the United States and around the world, and how the sports we watch and play shape our identity, culture, and society.

### **Social Studies**

#### **CULTURAL KALEIDOSCOPE**

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.

#### **THINK ABOUT IT PHILOSOPHY AIG**

Never has an elective class made the students think more deeply than this one. In this class students will explore mind-bending philosophical questions such as 'Are we real?', 'Does time exist?', 'Who should decide what is right and wrong?'. We dive deep, covering realms from quantum physics to Plato to political philosophy to ethics and back again. This is a class to remember so prepare to be open-minded to new possibilities....you have been warned!

### **Mathematics**

#### **CALCULATOR MATH**

A pocket calculator can save time in solving math problems. Find out how this instrument can use its memory to help you find answers quickly.

#### **FURTHER WITH NUMBERS -AIG (4th-5th Grade)**

This course provides both horizontal and vertical enrichment for the student who loves math and likes challenges! Students will look carefully at other number systems, other bases, and strange and wonderful math patterns and theorems; solve simple algebraic equations; build a city of polyhedron shapes; and "taste" probability.

### **Science**

#### **AERONAUTICS: WHAT GOES UP-AIG**

The characteristics and composition of the layers of the atmosphere, space, and flight will be studied in this course. Through experimentation students will develop understandings of difficult aeronautical concepts such as Newton's Law of Motion and the Bernoulli Principles. The study of air pressure and how balloons, jets, rockets, and propeller planes fly will be emphasized. Manned and unmanned flights from the Montgolfier Brothers' balloons to the present-day space shuttle will be explored. Students will have the opportunity to create and launch multiple flight apparatus of their own.

## **GARDEN DESIGN**

Garden Design is an exciting adventure into the world of plants that examines how people and plants relate, individually and in communities. Learners will explore the idea of gardens and designing gardens that draw people into the outdoor environment as well as study the essentials of plant life and explore the different processes of growing plants. Students will grow and develop new strategies of understanding their individual relationships with plants through utilizing emerging computer technologies.

## **MAMMALS ARE AMAZING**

From this course, students will develop an appreciation of mammals and their natural habitats. Through integrated activities, they will study mammals such as chimpanzees, raccoons, giraffes, bats, kangaroos, platypuses, and whales.

## **OTHER SUBJECTS**

### **Media/Technology**

## **SCHOOL NEWS TODAY**

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. Students will produce the news over the intercom Monday-Thursday and a recorded show on Friday.

### **Performing Arts**

## **BEGINNING BAND (Pathway to Band 1) Year-Long (Registration occurs 1st quarter)**

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.

## **CONTINUING Orchestra (Pathway to Orchestra 2) Year-Long (Registration occurs 1st quarter)**

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.

## **DANCE IT UP**

What will be the newest dance of this year? You will be the one to create it! Be inspired by the latest dances of popular artists and music videos. Learn and create your own choreography based on Hip-Hop, Step, and other dance styles. Let's see what you can do!

## **SPOTLIGHT ON MUSICAL THEATRE**

Students will learn about musical theatre from its beginning in America through modern Broadway musicals from the creative and production teams to performance. Activities will include building basic skills in acting, singing, and dancing.

## **Physical Education/Health**

### **NEW GAMES II**

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.

## **Visual Arts**

### **POTTERY**

Explore and create with clay, one of the world's oldest art mediums.

Students design and create original pieces inspired by the rich pottery traditions of our state, using slab, pinch, coil, clay building, and sculpting techniques. Students will explore the evolution of pottery in North Carolina and its connections to various cultural groups and traditions. Students will learn how North Carolinians have utilized pottery for functional, decorative and ceremonial purposes.

**CORE ACADEMIC SUBJECTS****Language Arts****JOURNALISM**

Come and explore the parts of a yearbook from headlines to comics. Learn to write various types of news articles from stories to editorials. Enjoy an opportunity to create and publish our school yearbook!

**ODYSSEY OF THE MIND-AIG (Registration occurred 1st semester)**

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!

**Mathematics****FREAKY FRACTIONS AIG**

This course provides reinforcement and enrichment with fractions for fourth and fifth graders. Students will become aware of the variety of ways in which fractions are commonly used, develop a repertoire of visual models for fractions, and apply these models flexibly and appropriately as they solve problems with fractions. All activities are designed to help students see the connections between fraction concepts and real-life experience.

**Science****What's the Matter? (Kitchen Chemistry)**

Do you know what kind of matter a banana is made of? In this class, you will explore the properties of matter using normal, everyday ingredients you can find around the kitchen. You will think like a scientist as you work together with your peers to compare the basic properties of solids, liquids, and gases. You will keep a journal of your investigations and record your observations of what happens to matter. You will make connections between the science of physics and your everyday life "cooking up" some new understanding.

**OTHER SUBJECTS****Performing Arts****ACTING**

In this course, students will participate in role-playing, scripted study, improvisation, and characterization. Students will study voice, body movement, and concentration techniques to develop the actor's tools. We will also take a look at the great acting teachers throughout history.



**ADVANCED BAND (Pathway to Band 2) Year-Long (Students must register 1st quarter)**

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 (Students must register 1st quarter)**

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.

**KEYBOARD BY SIGHT AND SOUND I**

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.

**Physical Education/Health****TRACK AND FIELD (TEAM SPORTS)**

Ready, Set, Go! This course is designed for students who are interested in learning about and competing in track and field events. Through a variety of activities in sprinting, endurance, relays, long jump and jr. javelin throw, students will improve his/her physical condition while having fun. Our class will compete in a Magnet Track Meet against other Magnet Schools at the end of this elective.

**Visual Arts****DRAWING AND PAINTING-Science and Surrealism -**

In this elective students will learn techniques for designing and painting realistic, abstract and surrealistic works of science-based art. Students learn the importance of anatomy, biology, and zoology in art-making while learning how to draw and paint from careful observation. In addition, students learn to create surrealistic compositions morphing one subject or animal into another. Featured artists include Salvador Dali and Georgia O'Keeffe. Overall, students gain an intermediate understanding of painting materials, applications, and textural techniques.

**CORE ACADEMIC SUBJECTS****Language Arts****FBI**

Calling all students! Have you ever wondered about how the FBI works? Grab your credentials and flip notebooks and become an FBI agent for our school. In this elective you will learn how to take fingerprints and use them to figure out who robbed the safe. We will use chromatology to figure out the type of pen used in a ransom note as we investigate, "The Case of the Missing Class Pet." You will then put all of these skills together and work with a team of agents to solve the mystery of the "Missing Statue."

**Social Studies****AFRICAN AMERICANS IN U. S. HISTORY**

Who navigated one of Columbus' ships? Who built one of the first clocks in America? Who invented the first traffic light? Find out in this in-depth study of contributions made by African Americans.

**Mathematics****GEOMETRIC CONSTRUCTION - AIG**

Have you ever been to an amusement park? Have you ever successfully traced a line through a maze? Do you know what characteristics a shape must have to be called a polygon? In this class, you will study the history of geometry and use the concepts of line, angle, and shape, to solve design challenges. You will see where these geometric elements exist in the world around you as you work to fully develop understanding of vocabulary and principles of geometry. You will be working creatively to design mazes, 3-D structures and even complete to build the sturdiest of geodesic domes. Come join us on an a-maze-ing journey!

**Science****NATURE NEWS**

Read all about it! Students who enjoy learning about plants and insects, agriculture, local food, and are concerned about the environment are encouraged to join in this elective and help spread the word to others. They will use reading, research, data collection, and writing skills to produce and distribute an environmental newspaper.

**Physics in Action AIG**

This fun and challenging class offers a brief introduction to the forces of nature that make up our physical world. From gravity to inertia to friction to thrust they will use experiments and make machines to solve challenges all the while using physics to succeed. Who can make a rocket that uses aerodynamics to get the highest height? Who can make a car that has the correct gearing ratio to putt the most cubes? These are the types of tough challenges that they will be required to get their teeth into.  $E=MC^2$  so bring your energy and get ready to excel.

## **OTHER SUBJECTS**

### **Performing Arts**

#### **ADVANCED BAND (Pathway to Band 2) Year-Long (Students must register 1st quarter)**

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 (Students must register 1st quarter)**

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.

#### **GUITAR (Music Through a Variety of Sound Sources)**

In this course, students will begin to play the guitar. This course is designed for students with no previous guitar experience as the basic fundamentals of music and playing technique will be presented.

#### **MIME: CREATING STORIES**

In this course students will contribute original ideas in the development of mime skits and the study of nonverbal communication. Students will study simple story development involving beginning, middle, and end, as well as demonstrate sensory awareness in the use of pantomime. They will participate in the rehearsal and presentation of mime skits for selected audiences.

#### **YOGA FOR KIDS**

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**

#### **TEAM SPORTS**

This course is designed for the student who is interested in investigating and developing skills in a variety of team sports. Emphasis will be placed on skills, drills, rules, care of equipment, lead-up activities, and game situations. We will focus on good sportsmanship and team cooperation.

## **Visual Arts**

### **CREATIVE COMPUTER ART**

Students explore the world of computer-generated art while creating unique projects using 3d modeling, drawing, and photo manipulation software. Students learn about creative occupations associated with computer-based design while focusing on architectural, interior, advertising, and graphic design based projects. This course fuses technology and visual arts while showcasing real-world applications. Creativity, innovation, and collaboration are actively facilitated.

## **World Language**

### **PACK YOUR SUITCASE... ¡Y Habla Español! (Beginning Spanish)**

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.

## **ONLINE LANGUAGE**

### **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.

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