West Millbrook Magnet Middle School
Elective Course Descriptions
2019 - 2020

ARTS ELECTIVES	COURSE DESCRIPTION
Beginning Band	Emphasis is on the acquisition of basic musical skills as students learn to play a brass, woodwind, or percussion instrument.
Intermediate Band	2nd Year **Prerequisite: Beginning Band**
Advanced Band	3rd Year **Prerequisite: Beginning and Intermediate Band**
Beginning Strings	Beginning Strings is a course designed for students who are interested in playing a stringed instrument (violin, viola, cello, bass) for the first time.
Intermediate Strings	2nd Year **Prerequisite: Beginning Strings**
Advanced Strings	3rd Year **Prerequisite: Beginning and Intermediate Strings**
Magnet Drawing I	Students are taught drawing techniques using various media. They work with line, value, and basic perspective. In addition, students will learn to think and write critically about master work as well as their own.
Visual Arts Exploratory	This course introduces students to the elements of art through a variety of media that may include: drawing, painting, printmaking, mixed media, pottery, and weaving.
Visual Composition (Teacher recommendation)	**Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation.** Students are taught drawing techniques using various media. They work with line, value, and basic perspective. In addition, students will learn to think and write critically about master work as well as their own.
Magnet Advanced Design 2D	This advanced level course emphasizes the principles of art and design to achieve strong compositions. Advanced work will feature multiple approaches to creative problem-solving using a variety of two-dimensional mediums such as collage, graphic design, painting and photography. Students will be challenged to work with others and contribute to the collaborative process. They will have the opportunity for independent study and are expected to be motivated to follow through on a project from ideation to finished product.
Introduction to Dance	This course introduces creative movement, improvisation, and choreography through basic modern dance techniques.
Dance I	This course continues developing skills and creativity through modern dance. Students may participate in formal and informal performance activities.
Dance II	Students will further develop their modern dance technique skills through a rigorous, class with more complicated performance and choreographic projects. Students should anticipate some after-school practices and evening performances.
Magnet Dance Ensemble (Auditions)	**Prerequisite: Audition required. For 7th & 8th graders only.** A select group of dancers who create dances in a collaborative process. Dances are performed in the community and in the Dance Concerts. This course is for the serious dancer only. Performance is mandatory.

Magnet Introduction to Theatre	This course is an overview of dramatic techniques. Students develop communication skills through study in dialogue, pantomime, improvisation, speech/diction, and role play.
Magnet Acting I	**Prerequisite: Magnet Intro to Theatre. For 7th & 8th graders only.** Students develop specific skills that allow them to study and create characters for the stage. Activities include stage directions, simple set and costume design, prop collection, and play production. Students should anticipate some after-school practices and evening performances.

DESIGN ELECTIVES	COURSE DESCRIPTION
Keyboarding & Basic Word Processing	This middle school course is composed of instructional modules designed to allow students to learn the touch method of keyboarding, digital literacy and computer knowledge, and basic word processing and document formatting skills.
Introduction to Office Productivity	**Prerequisite: Keyboarding & Basic Word Processing.** This middle school course is composed of instructional modules designed to provide hands-on instruction using software common in the workplace. The software applications include word processing, presentation, spreadsheet, database, and desktop.
Computer Science Discoveries	**Exploration and Expression**: introduces students to computer science as a vehicle for problem-solving, communication, and personal expression. As a whole, this course focuses on the visible aspects of computing and computer science and encourages students to see where computer science exists around them and how they can engage with it as a tool for exploration and expression. **Innovation and Impact**: students are asked to look outward and explore the impact of computer science on society. Students will see how a thorough user-centered design process produces a better application, how data is used to address problems that affect large numbers of people, and how physical computing with bare circuit boards allows computers to collect input and return output in a variety of ways.
Exploring Apparel and Interior Design	The modules that are covered in this course are: personal finance and resource management, food service and hospitality, apparel, and interior design.
Exploring Nutrition and Wellness	The modules that are covered in this course are: interpersonal relationships, nutrition and wellness, child development and education.
Exploring Personal Characteristics and Careers	Provides an orientation to the world of work. Emphasis is placed on self-awareness, understanding the world of work, and the career planning process. Skills learned include communication, personal management, and teamwork.
Technological Issues and Impacts	This middle school course focuses on students' understanding how technological systems work together to solve problems and capture opportunities.
Project Revive	This middle school course focuses on applying the design process in the invention or innovation of a new product, process, or system. Through engaging activities and hands-on projects, students focus on understanding how criteria, constraints, and processes affect designs. Emphasis is placed on brainstorming, visualizing, modeling, testing, and refining designs. Students develop skills in researching information, communicating design information, and reporting results.
Magnet Odyssey of the Mind (Application)	Students develop problem-solving skills through logic activities, and prepare for the annual OM competition. Students apply their creativity to solve problems that range from building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics. This elective requires meeting every Thursday for at least an hour and a half after school for part of quarter 1 and all of quarters 2 & 3. **Application form required plus a teacher recommendation**.

Magnet Science Olympiad (Application)	This course enables students to apply Science and Mathematics concepts and principles in innovative situations that enhance problem-solving skills. Independent and group projects are completed under the guidelines of the National Science Olympiad. Students in this course will have the opportunity to compete in local and regional competitions. **Application form required plus a teacher recommendation.**
Exploring Environmental / Natural Resources	Topics of instruction include plant science, agricultural issues, natural resources, and stewardship. English language arts, mathematics, and science are reinforced.
Model United Nations	

WORLD LANGUAGE	COURSE DESCRIPTION
Spanish Beginning less than 1 year (Beginning)	This course begins the study of the Spanish language and culture and is the first part in the Spanish curriculum series for high school credit. Major topics include greetings, conversation questions, telling time, classroom objects, asking for help, the parts of the body, infinitive verbs, expressing likes and dislikes, definite and indefinite articles, adjectives, subject pronouns, the present tense of –ar verbs, and the plurals of nouns and articles.
Spanish Beginning 1 year (Intermediate)	**Prerequisite: Beginning Spanish.** This course continues the study of the Spanish language and culture, refining grammatical and vocabulary topics. Students who successfully complete this course should continue the Spanish curriculum series for high school credit by taking Advanced Spanish.
Spanish I- (High School Credit)	**Prerequisite: Beginning & Intermediate Spanish**. This course continues the study of the Spanish language and culture, refining grammatical and vocabulary topics. Students who complete this course successfully and who pass the exit exam (worth 20% of the overall grade) may take Spanish II at the high school level.
Chinese Beginning less than 1 year (Beginning)	This course builds on the basics of Chinese as taught in the Beginning Chinese course or in the elementary program. A more formal introduction of grammar is included, as well as continued emphasis on listening, speaking, reading, writing, and culture.
Chinese Beginning 1 year (Intermediate)	**Prerequisite: Beginning Chinese.** This course continues the study of the Chinese language and culture. Continues to emphasize spoken and written communication through drill practice and conversation to promote facility with pronunciation, intonation, and smoothness of expressions.
French Beginning less than 1 year (Beginning)	This course is an introduction to French language and culture. Major topics include classroom objects, numbers, colors, the calendar, greetings, telling time, weather expressions, common verbs, foods, the family, clothing, animals, basic prepositions, negative expressions, adjectives, and commands. Students who complete this course successfully should next take Intermediate French or French A.
French Beginning 1 year (Intermediate)	**Prerequisite: Beginning French.** This course continues the study of the French language and culture. Major topics include an expansion of verbs and vocabulary, family vocabulary, interrogatives, negative expressions, adjectives, contractions, possessive adjectives, common idioms, the future tense, double verb construction, imperatives, demonstrative adjectives, interrogative adjectives, and forming questions.