

# Elective Descriptions - 1st & 2nd Quarter: 2023-2024

## AIG:

### 4th/5th Choice:

**AIG\* - Ecology:** Are you curious about our local ecosystem? In this class, you will study the relationship between plants, animals, and the environment. Through problem-based learning, we will research, plan, and design a new addition to our courtyard garden that will support local wildlife. You won't just learn about ecology - you will be an ecologist!

**AIG\* - Adventures in Space: NASA SPARX:** In this elective, students will connect to STEM in a way only NASA can! This SPARX challenge exposes students to the excitement of the Artemis mission to return to the moon with the first woman and first person of color. Students will learn how NASA plans to return humans to the moon using the Space Launch System (SLS) and Orion capsule. We will use the Engineering Design Process (EDP) to guide us as we solve problems in teams. By completing this NASA SPARX challenge, participants join NASA as part of the Artemis generation!

## Dance:

### K/1st AND 2nd/3rd Choice:

**Dance the Story: "The Nutcracker" (semester long):** This course will introduce students to basic technique and movement in a variety of dance styles. The dance styles experienced in this elective may include ballet, tap, jazz, contemporary/modern, lyrical, creative, or musical theater. Choreography and performance will be the focus of the elective as students will participate in our annual production of "The Nutcracker," which will be a collaborative arts performance in December.

### 4th/5th Choice:

**Storybook Dance: "The Nutcracker" (semester long):** This elective will allow students to explore technique in a variety of dance forms that may include ballet, tap, jazz, lyrical, contemporary/modern, creative dance, improvisation, or musical theater. Dancers will make connections between the written word and communication of movement as they prepare and participate in our annual production of "The Nutcracker," which will be a collaborative arts performance in December.

## Drama:

### K/1st Choice:

**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.

**Mime:** This course will involve students in the art of dramatics through mime. Students will learn pantomime techniques, enact popular and original stories, and participate in student performances.

### 2nd/3rd Choice:

**Behind the Scenes:** Students will explore a variety of technical aspects of the theater: makeup, costumes, sound, properties, scenery, and stage crafts.

**Creative Dramatics:** Through use of the senses, voice, and body, students will learn to expand their own creativity. This course builds a good self-image and confidence for further study in theater.

### 4th/5th Choice:

**Acting:** In this course, students will participate in role-playing, scripted study, improvisation, and characterization. Teacher-guided study in voice, body movement, and concentration techniques will develop the actor's tools.

**Wacky Makeup and Crazy Costumes:** This course is an introduction to the basic skills of making costumes and creating "makeup" for theater. Students will learn how creativity can take them beyond the boundaries of a makeup kit and sewing machine.

## Media/Technology/ELA/Math/Science:

### K/1st Choice:

**Authors in the Making: Lego Narrative Builder:** LEGOS are EVERYTHING AWESOME!

Explore LEGO's through writing and be inspired! Imagine building fantastical storyboards to learn how to SHOW NOT TELL. Learn the writing process with a fun twist using LEGO Fairy Tales, LEGO Space and LEGO Communities expansion kits. Build-up the story elements, character, setting, action and problem-solution brick by brick.

### 2nd/3rd Choice:

**Storytelling: Exploring through Podcasts:** Students will participate in an art form as old as language itself. They will be taught 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 explore the world of podcasting and be encouraged to retell stories in their own words, remaining actively involved as they apply skills in reading, writing, speaking, and critical thinking to create and present their own stories.

### 4th/5th Choice:

**School News - WPLA & The Powell Planet:** The primary purpose of this elective is to produce WPLA (our school news program) & The Powell Planet (our digital newspaper) to share important school information, events & interesting topics. Students who participate in this elective will study concepts of presentation: speaking, diction, personality, celebrity, marketing, branding and advertising. Research, interest-based writing, editing, and reporting as well as incorporating new technologies to produce each program, are prime focus areas.

## World Language:

### K-5th Choice:

**Exploring Spanish:** Hola! Join the Spanish elective to learn basic Spanish vocabulary, common phrases, and some silly songs. Play games, dance and create while learning about famous people, places, and the beautiful culture of Spanish speaking people.

*\*Teacher Recommendation Encouraged*

## Music:

### K/1st Choices:

**Orchestra I (year-long):** Learn to play the violin & read music in an ensemble! This class will have an opportunity to share what they have learned in group performances during the year.

**There's Magic in Music:** Students will discover the magic of music through singing, chanting, dancing, and playing as they become tuneful (able to sing in tune), beatful (able to keep a steady beat), and artful (appreciate many types and forms of music). There will be a focus on an 8 step musical workout involving music basics this quarter.

**Music We Can Play & Sing:** Through a sequential, vocal/instrumental approach, children will be introduced to music reading skills. Students will learn to become independent musical thinkers with the help of a rich variety of folk and classical music.

**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.

### 2nd/3rd Choices:

**Orchestra I/II - (year-long):** Play the violin, viola, or cello in this course. Emphasis will be placed on both individual and group instruction. Solo and ensemble performances will be encouraged. This class will have an opportunity to share what they have learned in group performances throughout the year.

**Band I - (3rd Graders ONLY - year-long):** Learn to play a musical instrument heard in band.

**Music We Can Play & Sing:** Through a sequential, vocal/instrumental approach, children will be introduced to music reading skills. Students will learn to become independent musical thinkers with the help of a rich variety of folk and classical music.

**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

### 4th/5th Choices:

**Orchestra II - (year-long):** Continue playing the violin, viola, or cello in this course. Emphasis will be placed on both individual and group instruction. Solo and ensemble performances will be encouraged. This class will have an opportunity to share what they have learned in group performances throughout the year.

**Band II - (year-long):** This course will include instruction on woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments. Emphasis will be on individual and group instruction. Solo and ensemble performances will be a vital part of this course.

**Orff Key:** Carl Orff developed a complete musical experience for children through singing, chanting, dancing, and playing instruments. This course will use ukuleles, xylophones, voices and percussion instruments to provide fun and playful music making.

## P.E./Health:

### K/1st Choice:

**Ready, Set, Move:** This is a course designed to strengthen gross motor skills by using large muscle groups. Activities will include imitating body movements, identifying and using body parts, and manipulating their bodies in space.

**New Games I: First Tee Golf:** Students will participate in the joy of play, cooperation, and trust, rather than simply striving to win. Good sportsmanship will be emphasized & our First Tee Golf Program will be highlighted!

### 2nd/3rd Choice:

**Growing Strong:** In this class students will learn positive ways to get and stay healthy. Activities will include fun ways to develop good health and safety habits.

**New Games I: First Tee Golf:** Students will participate in the joy of play, cooperation & trust, rather than simply striving to win. Good sportsmanship will be emphasized & our First Tee Golf Program will be highlighted!

### 4th/5th Choice:

**Shaping Up:** Who's in control of having a healthy body? Aerobic exercises and nutritional education will enhance the awareness of what food and exercise can do for the body.

**New Games II: First Tee Golf:** Students will participate in the joy of play, cooperation, and trust, rather than simply striving to win. Good sportsmanship will be emphasized & our First Tee Golf Program will be highlighted!

## Visual Arts:

### K/1st Choice:

**All Together:** Students will explore a variety of art media to build their skills of drawing, cutting & pasting, and sculpting.

**Animals in Art:** Students interested in animals will have the opportunity to use a variety of mediums to portray animals in their artwork.

### 2nd/3rd Choice:

**All Together:** Students will explore a variety of art media, such as, paper mosaic, plaster sculpture, gelli plates and more to build their skills of drawing, cutting, pasting & sculpting.

**Astounding Artists:** Through a study of astounding artists' lives (Van Gogh, Matisse, etc.) & works, students will create their own "masterpieces" using a variety of art media & methods.

### 4th/5th Choice:

**Fibers: Weaving & Sewing:** Students will learn many different stitches for designing with yarn and burlap. Basic weaving techniques will be explored.

**Drawing the Line:** Students will have the opportunity to draw a wide variety of subjects from life & imagination. Line techniques, perspective, proportion & visual texture will be taught.

