

EMERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVES

2016-2017 FIRST TRIMESTER

WORLD LANGUAGES – French I; Latin I; Spanish I; and Chinese I.

World language is a required class. Students may choose French, Chinese, Latin, or Spanish to study throughout Middle School. They begin in a Level 1 class as sixth graders and move to Levels 2 and 3 as seventh and eighth grades. In the spoken languages (French, Chinese, and Spanish), the curriculum is designed with four goals: to learn to communicate at increasingly advanced levels in the target language; to gain an understanding of another culture (or cultures) while recognizing similarities with and differences from their own culture; to enlarge their global vision; and to make connections with other disciplines through learning a foreign language. Latin classes emphasize learning vocabulary and mastering grammatical structures.

A WORLD OF FOOD - Mrs. Delaj

From English afternoon tea to American Thanksgiving, we'll look at different food from around the world. We'll include a range of celebrations, religions, and countries as we look at the typical diet in different areas of the world, discuss how to balance the family budget, and investigate the historical, cultural, and religious background behind feasts and celebrations. There will be lots of practical work in the kitchen to prepare food, and plenty to eat as well. **\$25 materials fee**

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER - Madame Jeri

Let's gather all the news around Emerson and publish our own newspaper. We will conduct interviews, research the facts behind stories, and investigate stories on and off campus. Story ideas will be generated by students and will cover all aspects of life at Emerson and beyond. Students will write and edit extensively. We hope to publish online and on paper. Let's harness the great writing and great ideas around campus by publishing an outstanding student newspaper.

STUDY HALL

This class will give students an opportunity to have additional time for completing assignments. If all work for the day is complete and there are no outstanding assignments, students will be expected to work quietly on something else, such as reading a good book. This will be a great time to get additional tutoring. Working on homework is a must!!

MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND – Mrs. Borton

"Hey, BAND! Hey, what?! Hey, BAND! Hey, what?! Show me how to get down! No way! Show me how to get down! OK, B – A – N – D! That's the way to get down!" Come join the band and come join the fun! Each week when we have "Friday Fun Time," we laugh, and make music with our friends. The Emerson Middle School Band is open to all 6th – 8th grade students with previous instrumental experience. Please contact Mrs. Borton if you are interested in becoming a new band member.

Emphasis is placed on creating expressive music as an ensemble and improving as an individual to meet the demands of the music. Our ensemble focuses on finding one's individual strengths and seeing the best in others. **This elective is a full-year commitment.** Students will receive a letter grade each trimester based upon participation at performances and record keeping of practice time outside of class. Many of our students also receive individual instruction with a local private lesson teacher. Emerson's After School Program has a large number of instructors. Please contact Rose Hacker to make these arrangements.

Students are given many performance opportunities, including Solo & Ensemble Festival, All State Band, performances in small ensembles, and playing in a full orchestra. We also have many fun events throughout the year, including a bowling party, the overnight Recognition Retreat in Frankenmuth, and marching at Cedar Point.

7/8 GRADE MIDDLE SCHOOL ORCHESTRA – Ms. Capozzoli

Join the Emerson Middle School Orchestra and make music with friends at school!

- Practice and perform string and full orchestra music
- Enhance your note-reading skills with regular practice during the school day
- Study music theory, key signatures, complex rhythms, intervals, and chord structures
- Learn about the greatest composers and historical periods in music
- Develop an ability to play various bow strokes and performance styles
- Perform in small ensembles and build your leadership skills
- Participate in Solo and Ensemble, the Recognition Retreat Trip in Frankenmuth, and the Cedar Point trip

This class is open to students with previous experience. New orchestra members, please contact the instructor (lcapozzo@emerson-school.org) prior to registering for this class. Our concerts are an important and graded component of the orchestra curriculum. **Students are required to participate in all concerts, and this elective is a full-year commitment.** Join our Borchestrand family and have a blast playing great music together!

6TH GRADE MIDDLE SCHOOL ORCHESTRA – Ms. Capozzoli

The 6th Grade Orchestra meets during the first trimester as its own ensemble, and members join the 7th and 8th graders in the “M” day orchestra elective during the second and third trimesters. During the first trimester, you will develop your sight-reading skills as you play through new music in each rehearsal. Please read the class description for the 7th-8th Grade Orchestra for further class information. All details, with the exception of Solo and Ensemble participation, apply to the 6th Grade Orchestra class.

NATURE CENTER DEVELOPMENT – Tim Wilson

In the last several years, we’ve made great progress on the Emerson School Nature Center with students who have chosen this class. We now have an exciting addition to our Nature Center areas--the new Nature Center East! This elective will focus entirely on development of our Nature Centers, both east and west! Our work will include planting for diversity, working on pond habitats, identifying existing plants, developing an identification handbook that can be used by all Emerson students, labeling plants with field markers, installing more birdhouses, creating signage and paths, tackling other maintenance projects, and many other things we determine to be important. Come and join us if you are ready to work and have special interests in this area. This class will receive a pass/fail grade and will not require homework. Maximum class size 20.

ANIMALS, ANIMALS, ANIMALS - Tim Wilson

If you like the idea of meeting and getting to know new and exotic animals (including some of our own Michigan creatures), this elective is for you. In this class, we will completely redesign our classroom “zoo,” in order to accommodate new and exotic animal species. We will set up our fish tanks, terrariums, and many other new habitats to house a collection of animals, which we will purchase and collect in September and October. Meanwhile, we will research the care and handling of our animals, learning as much about them as we can, and building the best habitats possible. We will also research, with movies, videos, and other resources, exotic animals from around the world. Students will select animals to investigate, help design and build habitats, and take responsibility for the care of our guests throughout the term.

EMERSON MUSICAL – Mrs. Moon JM

Students will take part in a musical production that performs in the Emerson School Arts and Innovation Center December 7th-10th, 2016, prior to Winter Break. Performances are on a Thursday and Friday evening and Saturday afternoon in December with a school-day performance Wednesday that week. When students are not working on vocal music, dance choreography, or staging in class, they will be in study hall.

Requirements include:

- To be cast in the show, **students must sign up for the elective class and sign up to go through the audition process during the first week of school** (possibly into second week). This process involves singing a solo, learning a dance combination to perform in small groups, and perhaps cold-reading from a script.
- **A signed Parent Permission Form** (found on the Theatre Arts website) must be handed in at the time of the audition in order to be participate in this elective and to be a cast member.
- For safety and performance quality purposes, **cast members must be in attendance for all of Tech Week (November 29th - December 6th, 2016), as well as the prior week (November 14th-22nd - the week before Thanksgiving)**. If a student is unavailable for these 2 weeks he/she should not participate in this elective.

Information regarding the show choice, specific performance dates, auditions, specifics of tech week, the rehearsal schedule, and more will be available by the first day of school, on the Theatre Arts website: <https://sites.google.com/a/emerson-school.org/theatre-arts>. If you decide to take the elective, please bookmark this site and check it often over the summer, as well as during the course of the elective. This is where all information is posted.

This elective involves after-school rehearsals from 2:45-4:00pm Monday through Friday. The number of rehearsals for each student varies, depending on the size of his/ her role, the type of show, and the number of students who participate. For example, a lead role may rehearse each day, a supporting role 2-3 times/week, ensemble members 2-4 times/month. However, shows that are more ensemble-driven or have fewer participants require most of the cast to attend regular rehearsals. Three weeks prior to performances, rehearsals will run later in order to go through the entire show. Typically participation by all cast members will be required during these rehearsals. Tech week and shows will also have later evening times in order to allow for the schedules of our technical and musician staff, as well as length of production.

WEMS - Carol Kelly

WEMS is the Emerson Middle School news/TV output. Each week students have to script, record, and edit a news item about the middle school, which is then made available for the entire school to watch (usually at our weekly meetings). No previous experience needed. There's a lot of hands-on experience with filming and editing, and plenty of discussion about what is newsworthy, how best to film, and what do audience members want.

DRAGONOLGY – Carol Kelly

Interested in learning more about dragons? These mythical creatures have been part of storytelling for hundreds of years. We can look at descriptions of stories with dragons, watch movies, invent new ones, use sculpey or paint to create them, and probably get some cupcakes to look like them ... Wherever your interests lie, we can come up with ways to talk about and be creative about dragons.

ELECTRONICS & ENGINEERING - Beth Nazario

Do you like tinkering and creating? This hands-on course is designed to teach engineering concepts through physical computing (think prototypes, circuit boards, and lots of "making!"). We will learn about electricity, circuitry, and design through the use of different hardware kits and software programs. Skills taught will include soldering, programming, drafting, and drawing. There will be a \$35 lab fee for this course to cover take-home projects.

MATH MADNESS - Mr. Wood

If you've heard of March Madness for basketball, this is the equivalent for math lovers. We will be forming a team of Emerson students that will be competing in online competitions during the school day against other schools across the country. After the preliminary rounds, we will be placed in a bracket-style competition to compete for the title! These are challenging problems (some **very** challenging). Interested students should have a love for math and a love of friendly competition.

PERMACULTURE CREW - Mrs. Wancier

Do you like the idea of organic gardening and producing food for your family or community in a sustainable way? In this class you have the opportunity to become a part of Emerson's first permaculture initiatives. We will learn about the principles of permaculture and sustainability while working to design and build systems that integrate food, water, shelter, soil, energy, climate, and ethics.

THE SERVICE SQUAD - Mrs. Wancier

You have heard of the Geek Squad, the Mod Squad, and all kinds of athletic and military squads, now you can be part of a squad that, like all of these other squads, works together to make things better. Better than fixing computers for a fee, or even winning the game, is the opportunity to make life a little better for others in our community. Join the service squad and think about how you can make the world a better place through your leadership, and commitment. This course is a part of the Emerson Peace, Justice, and Service Program. As such it aims to foster compassion, empathy, understanding, and civic pride. You will connect with meaningful opportunities to make a positive change in the world around you. The hope is that being in this course will help you continue to challenge yourself to deepen your commitment to your local and global neighbors and work with your peers, Emerson staff, and local organizations to continue to find, develop and share your service projects in the community.

EAT, DRINK AND SLEEP FRANCE – Madame Jeri

This class takes a look at French culture in France, including music, films, food, fashion, architecture, art, and history. Then we follow the imperialistic trail of the French as they colonized North Africa. We will look in depth at the cultures in these areas, in the past and today, after nearly 100 years of French control. We will learn how they are impacted by the role of Islam in everyday life. We will sample authentic treats, listen to original music, and watch films set in the two cultures. If you find cultural differences fascinating, and would like to learn what Islam is all about, take this class.

YEARBOOK PHOTOGRAPHY – Mrs. Borton

Help create memories that will last a lifetime. Students will learn how to take pictures that tell a story or capture a moment. We will discuss both composition and quality of pictures used to show the events of our school year. Class size will be limited to the number of computers available for use. Students will be given assignments and expected to meet deadlines. They should be organized, responsible, and able to keep up with school work. Students must bring a camera to every class. During school, cameras will be stored in room 210 until they are needed.

Cameras will not be provided for this class. Students who do not have access to a family camera should not sign up for this elective.

ELECTION 2016 - Bryan Seymour

Surprise! There is a presidential election coming up this year! In this elective we will be studying the outcomes of past presidential elections and analyzing the data to better understand the current electoral process. The class will include respectful, intelligent, and non-partisan discussions and presentations, readings of current news articles, and viewings of current news programs. Will we correctly determine the outcome of swing states? Will we predict the winner? Come find out!

DRAWING/PAINTING - Mrs. Cohen

We will take advantage of beautiful fall weather at the beginning of the trimester to draw and paint in outdoor settings, known as working plein air, both on the Emerson property and locations nearby. Most of our work will be based on direct observation of subjects to build skills in proportion, shape analysis, shading to model form, and expressive mark-making. As the weather turns colder, we'll shift our focus to painting to create works in watercolor and acrylic.

CREATE A SCENE - Mrs. Cohen

If you love to paint and make things in a variety of ways, then join "Create a Scene" and help bring the Middle School musical to life! We will spend the trimester making set pieces, props, and character accessories. Students will learn how directors and designers work together to make the magic of theater happen, build some stage vocabulary, and learn some techniques of the trade. Mrs. Moon will be announcing the musical selection over the summer, so stay tuned!

GLOBAL ISSUES - Mr. Lie

Solve global issues at a local level! We'll investigate global issues such as poverty, water quality, overcrowding, pollution, hunger, etc., and think of innovative and sustainable ways to solve these issues at a local and global level. Research, public speaking, and interviewing others will be some of the skills we address and develop in this elective. Day trips to local businesses and organizations may also be included in this elective depending on the concentrations of the students.