

## Emerson Middle School Electives

### 2014-2015 THIRD TRIMESTER

#### **Orchestra – Ms. Capozzoli**

Join the Emerson Middle School Orchestra and make music with friends at school! As a member of the orchestra, you will:

- Enhance your note-reading skills with regular practice during the school day;
- Study music theory, memorize key signatures, count complex rhythms, study intervals, and recognize chord structures;
- Learn about the greatest composers and historical periods in music;
- Develop the abilities to use various bow strokes and play in different performance styles;
- Perform in small ensembles and build your leadership skills;
- Be invited to participate in outside events such as Solo and Ensemble, the MS Chamber Music Program, the Practice Buddy Program, the Winter Workshop, and the Cedar Point trip.

The class is open to students with previous experience. New orchestra members, please contact the instructor prior to registering for the class. This elective is a full-year commitment and you will receive a letter grade each trimester. Performing in a school ensemble presents unique opportunities for growth. If you take full advantage of this class, you will become a stronger player, and you will likely deepen your friendships and your love of music!

#### **Middle School Band – Mrs. Borton**

Each week we have “Friday Fun Time,” laugh, and make music with our friends. Emphases are placed on creating expressive music as an ensemble and improving as an individual to meet the demands of the music. Students are required to practice their instruments so they are prepared for performances at school and throughout the community, including Solo & Ensemble Festival and All State Band. Students will also have the opportunity to march as we prepare for our performance at Cedar Point. The Emerson Middle School Band is open to all 6th – 8th grade students with previous instrumental experience. Students will receive a letter grade each trimester. This elective is a full-year commitment.

#### **Sign Language – Mrs. Borton**

Talk with your friends without saying a word! Sign language is a beautiful and expressive way to communicate with others by using your hands. In this elective we will learn the manual alphabet, numbers, and basic vocabulary through class participation, games, worksheets, and projects. Students will have a chance to practice their communication skills by interpreting songs and children's books. No prior experience is needed and the class is open to all students. No homework will be given; class time will be set aside for working on projects, but some students may need additional time to finish.

### **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. Students will be allowed to use the library only if there is space; the computer lab will not be available.

### **Quilting – Victoria Scott**

Learn the basic elements of machine quilting from design to color choice to assembly of your own quilt! This is not your Grandmother's quilting course – we will be delving into more modern designs and techniques and creating more than your standard “block quilt.” Stained glass, watercolor, landscape....they're all possible in this class. Maximum class size 12.

### **Emerson 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 covering 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.

### **S.E.T. 4 Change – Mrs. Moon**

S.E.T. 4 CHANGE is Social and Emotional Theatre for Change. This class involves the creation of a show(s) by students that will evolve through exploration of personal experience or responses to a catalyst in today's society. The show(s) will be produced through creative playwriting, adaptation of already written material, and/or performance of scripts intended to evoke an emotional response from audience members which will open or change their minds about aspects of society and/or our world.

### **Ceramics – Mrs. Lamson**

This elective focuses on techniques necessary to create pottery, including wheel throwing, slab building, extrusion, press mold, and a combination of these techniques. Learn how to throw a pot on the potters' wheel, creating functional and nonfunctional ceramic pieces. We will use controllable low fire under glazes and traditional potters' glazes. This class is for beginning, intermediate, or advanced students. This class will be graded but requires no homework. Maximum class size 12. **There is a \$30.00 materials fee.**

### **WEMS - Carol Kelly**

This class uses plenty of hands-on experience planning, filming, and editing stories and events from the middle school. Class time also covers discussing how news programs are produced for television and reflecting on the work produced within the class.

**Rock'n'Roll'n'History - Carol Kelly**

Beginning with a study of music in the 1950s and continuing up until the present day, this class will look at the origins of Rock'n'Roll, the musical influences, how the genre has developed, and many other topics. A mixture of discussion, debate, research, and presentations will cover: 1950s rock origins; each decade of music; music and the Civil Rights Movement; women in rock music; movies and music; music and fashion; favorite bands, and other areas.

**Show Choir – Mrs. Moon**

Learn the techniques of good vocal singing through diaphragmatic breathing and group work. Develop a knowledge of different singing styles, executing harmonies, and musical movement. If you've ever considered strengthening your singing skills to take part in musicals, performing solos, or harmonizing with a chorus, this course will assist you, all while having a relaxed good time. Anyone can participate, no experience necessary, and no homework other than class memorization is involved. Grading is credit/no credit.

**Argumentation & Debate - Beth Nazario**

Do you argue with your parents? If you do, this might be the perfect elective for you! Come learn different styles of speaking and argumentation, and gain critical thinking and research skills, self-confidence in speaking, and most of all, LISTENING SKILLS. We will be debating a wide variety of topics in a friendly and respectful environment, so come join the fun and tell us what YOU think!

**Nature Center East - Mrs. Spaller and Tim Wilson**

The recent construction work at Emerson created a fabulous new space, but it has created some barren land to the east of the school. This area is the future home of The Emerson Nature Center East! This class will give students the opportunity to plan and create a new, natural habitat using native plants and lots of hard work. After some planning and design work, we will install paths, plants of all kinds, birdhouses, animal habitats and all kinds of cool stuff that the Emerson community will enjoy for years to come. If you are interested in creating new habitats for animals and plants, and want to be one of the founders of the new Emerson Nature Center East, this is the class for you!

**Young Entrepreneurs Club – Mr. Wood**

If you have an idea for a business, whether big or small, that you want to work on launching, this is the elective for you. We will work on generating ideas, researching market interest, and analyzing competition. You will have time in this elective to grow your ideas into actual businesses earning real money. (We will also discuss ideas about what to do with money that is raised). The class will hopefully get the opportunity to hear from other entrepreneurs in the community as well, and bounce their ideas off of people with experience in growing businesses.

**Stop-Motion Animation (SMA) - Mr. Michael Wilson**

The SMA elective is a hands-on animation class, in which students get the opportunity to explore a number of animation techniques while producing a series of short frame-by-frame digital animations. Students will learn how to take the SMA process from the idea stage all the way to the production stage. In doing so, students will develop a story (or stories), create a storyboard plan, design or find characters, create props and backgrounds, choose a soundtrack and/or create dialogue, and film, film, film. Finally, students will learn how to edit and produce their own unique animation short.

**Cartooning - Mr. Michael Wilson**

Cartooning is an elective for students, who love to imagine, design, and draw cartoons and/or anime characters. Students will learn the basics of cartoon character design and cartoon panel creation. Each week selected student cartoons will be published in the Emerson School newspaper. Materials for the class will be provided.

**Outdoor Ed. – Tim Wilson and Sergei Lie**

This class develops basic skills and problem solving in wilderness survival through an unusual combination of personal challenges. We'll examine the physical and psychological needs that confront the individual in survival situations, learning about fire building, shelter making, finding water, orienteering, wild edibles, primitive tools, physiology of hypothermia, and many other topics. Students will also participate in a variety of problem solving activities and an overnight adventure designed to apply our learned skills.

**Genius Hour - Bryan Seymour**

Have you ever wished that you could create a class at school to learn about a topic of your choosing? Is there anything you are interested in inventing, researching, designing, or creating? If so, this is an elective for you! You will have autonomy in working toward your goal while receiving guidance and help along the way. Genius Hour is a national trend inspired by Google that aims to provide students dedicated time in school to pursue their passions, and it is coming to Emerson! Sign up and design a personalized elective!

**News of the World - Mrs. Delaj**

Do you love knowing what's going on in the world? Are you interested in what's happening in politics, sports, entertainment, or just plain "weird news?" Maybe you're tired of being the only one not in the know. Join us as we use various media outlets to see just what's happening in the world around us. We'll utilize print, television, and Internet sources to dig up the most exciting, dramatic, and strange news out there. Leave with an understanding and knowledge of up-to-the-minute events that will impress those around you.

**History Goes to the Movies - Mrs. Delaj**

*Gladiator. 300. Pearl Harbor.* Hollywood loves a good historical epic and we love watching them! But how much truth is there really in these “based on a true story” blockbusters? In this elective we’ll investigate some historical events, identifying the key events, people, and places to see just how well Hollywood teaches us history. Afterwards, we will watch all, or portions, of select movies, checking for their historical accuracy. If you love watching movies and discussing history, this is the elective for you!

**Steampunk Skit - The Case of the Arcane Artifact  
taught by Mrs. Lamson, helped by Victoria)**

Created by a mad scientist, hidden for years and recently found by an intrepid band of adventurers, the 'Device,' as it is called, holds great potential.....but for good or ill? There are those who want it for their own ends, while others seek to understand its potential. Join the group charged with unraveling the mystery of the “Device.” Students will create fully-fleshed Steampunk personas (complete with names, backstories, clothing, and steampunk devices), actively participate in group work, and solve the mystery.....including determining who among them intends to use the “Device” for his/her own nefarious purposes. The culmination of the class....other than solving the mystery.....will be a skit performed at Art/Music night by the students of the class as their Steampunk personas.

**Doodle Stitching - Ms. Capozzoli**

For thousands of years, people all around the globe have been embellishing clothing with colored thread. This craft is known as embroidery, and it is so simple to do, yet it can take any ordinary item and make it extraordinary! If you enjoy doodling with pencil and paper and you enjoy crafting, then this class would be fun and relaxing for you. In Doodle Stitching, you will learn basic stitches that can be used to compose any type of embellishment from flowers, to animals, to landscapes. You will embellish pieces of clothing such as a scarf or a pair of Converse shoes, as well as home items and small gifts like pillow cases and ornaments. There will be a \$15 fee for materials. Come give it a try!

**Join the Emerson Tech Team - Roger Spurgeon**

In this elective students can dive into technology at Emerson: including providing tech support to students and teachers, learning how to support events in our new Arts & Innovation Center, managing websites and the Middle School Electronic Display Board (TV), setting up equipment, running cables, assisting teachers, and perhaps also programming, website design, and more. Much of the focus of this elective will be determined by the students involved. Please chat with Roger in the tech office to learn more.