

WCA Middle School Electives

STEAM Electives

Art I: This class is open to sixth through eighth-grade students. This class will introduce students to the basic skills and knowledge necessary to communicate in each art form. By learning the elements and principles of art, working with various media, and evaluating master artists' works, students will develop an awareness and appreciation for art both within the classroom and in their everyday life experiences. The student will learn how to use different mediums such as charcoal, colored pencils, oil pastels, and soft pastels. The students will also use watercolor, acrylic, and tempera paints. These elements and principles will help enhance the student's natural framework of talent.

Art II: This class is open to seventh and eighth-grade students. Art I is not a prerequisite for Art 2. This class is designed to develop concepts necessary for understanding and producing art, to demonstrate knowledge and appreciation of art in the past and present, and to develop an awareness of art as an avocation and profession.

Broadcast Journalism: This class combines Journalism with public speaking and film design. In this course, students will brainstorm, develop, write, film, and edit a short program based on Middle School news. Students will learn skills in public speaking, news writing, and film recording. The completed news program will be shown to students.

Engineering I: This course which is project-based, is designed to challenge and engage the natural curiosity and imagination of middle school students. The student will explore robotics, communication, and engineering. Students will learn how to program a robot and design, build, and test a scale model of a structure with Whitebox Learning Software. In group and individual activities, students experience ways in which a technological knowledge of the design process and material processes contribute to effective solutions to problems. Brainstorming, modeling, visualizing, constructing, testing, and refining designs provides first-hand opportunities to understand the uses and impact of innovation. The knowledge and skills that students gain from Engineering create a strong foundation for further STEM learning.

Engineering II: This course is very similar in its design to Engineering I. This course will continue to use Whitebox Learning as its format while selecting different projects from Engineering I. Engineering I is not a prerequisite.

Forensics: This course is limited to students in the seventh or eighth grade. The class uses a scientific approach to study the tenets of investigating crimes and the psychology of criminal behavior. Students will learn terminology and procedures related to investigating crime scenes, questioning and interviewing techniques, determining criminal behavior characteristics, recognizing truth detection, and following scientific procedures used to solve crimes. Using scientific methods, students will collect and analyze evidence through case studies and simulated crime scenes such as fingerprints, DNA, blood, fibers, hair, impressions, toxicology, ballistics, handwriting, and bones. Students will work in teams to solve crimes using scientific knowledge and reasoning.

Robotics: This course is limited to students in the seventh or eighth grade. Robotics is a hands-on-class where the students use LEGO MINDSTORMs Education EV3 kits to build and program robots. The robot projects range from simple robots doing turns to complex, sensor-driven projects. The students will complete construction, hold experiments, and program using LEGO block coding. This is a fun, energetic class where students learn and use their creativity in a project-oriented environment.

Yearbook: This class is limited to students in the eighth grade. Students will understand the various roles a yearbook serves. They will be asked to sell ads and learn how to plan sections and agendas for the yearbook. Students will be able to recognize and understand the roles of the various yearbook staff members. *Students interested in this class must be interviewed by the Yearbook Advisor and complete an application prior to course selection.*

RESOURCE Electives

English Resource Lab: This course is designed to provide curriculum assistance for students in the subject area of English. Students will have an opportunity to work with an English tutor in a small class setting.

Math Resource Lab. This course is designed to provide curriculum assistance for students in the subject area of Mathematics. Students will have an opportunity to work with a Math tutor in a small class setting.

Study Hall; This course is an opportunity for students to complete their homework and ask questions of a teacher.

PERFORMING ARTS Electives

Chorus: Basic music-reading skills will be reinforced, with emphasis on building the ability to sing three and four-part music. The student will become acquainted with and be able to recognize different styles of music, such as a cappella, spirituals, hymns, and classical. Proper vocal health and usage will be encouraged.

Concert Band: The purpose of the band program is to educate young people through music performance and to use our gifts to bring honor and glory to Jesus Christ. By your involvement in this organization, you will mature as a musician, as a student, as a Christian, and as a person. Individual development of character, esteem, teamwork, and group accomplishment can be additional rewards of the program. Students are expected to maintain a regular practice routine and to complete a practice log each week. They will participate in Christmas and spring concerts, as well as the NCCSA Fine Arts Festival, and school chapels.

Drama: This course is designed to introduce students to public speaking and performance. Students will be required to memorize and recite publicly, as well as perform skits in school chapels. The goal of this course is for students to acquire poise and self-confidence while developing an appreciation for drama and good literature.

Handbells: Experience in bell-ringing is helpful; however, it is not required to participate. The students will learn basic, as well as more advanced, bell techniques in the class. Music reading skills will be reinforced. Proper body posture and performance skills will be demonstrated. They will participate in Christmas and spring concerts, as well as the NCCSA Fine Arts Festival, and school chapels.

Strings Orchestra: This class is for students who have completed at least two years of string classes for violin, viola or cello. Students will continue learning techniques and theory, as well as work on the basic string repertoire. Throughout the year, students will participate in performance opportunities as well as attend a North Carolina Symphony rehearsal.