

**West Jefferson Middle School**  
**2018/19 7<sup>th</sup> grade Electives - Course Descriptions**

**Composition (Trimester)**      ***THIS IS A REQUIRED CLASS FOR ALL 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS!***

This course focuses on students' writing skills and their ability to compose different types of writing for a range of purposes and audiences. Although there may be some opportunities for creative writing, the focus will primarily be on nonfiction, persuasive, informative, or technical writing.

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**Art 7 (Trimester)**

This course constitutes the second level of art for those who wish to continue from 6<sup>TH</sup> grade exploratory art. Classes will cover art history, as well as design, drawing, painting, print making, clay, and careers in art. Sketchbook included with fee.

**Creative Art – Sculpture/Jewelry (Trimester)**

Creative Art – Sculpture/Jewelry courses cover the same topics as Visual Arts Level 1-3 courses, but focus on creating three dimensional works. Students typically work with several media (such as clay, ceramics, wood, metals, textiles, and so on), but some courses focus only on one medium.

**Choir (Trimester)**

In this course, students will be provided an opportunity to participate fully in all the aspects of vocal ensemble.

- Students will develop skills in vocal production, choral singing, care of the voice, reading rhythms, and pitches. In addition, they will learn “solfege”, sight-singing, ear-training, posture, choreography, and prepare for performances on stage.
- There will be required performances outside school hours at outside locations.

**Musical Theatre (Trimester)**

In this course, students will explore different musical styles, genres, and periods with the intent of building appreciation for a wide range of music. Using Garage Band and other technological enhancements, students will focus on developing their artistic and technical judgment and style.

**Drama 7 (Trimester)**

Students will study theater arts, which includes pantomime, monologue, using the voice, stage presence, lighting and sound, and theater history. Students will:

- Develop skills in pantomime and body control.
- Improve voice control in reading projection, articulation and inflection.
- Memorize and perform a monologue and a scene.
- Participate in production of a play as actor or technician.
- There will be required day and evening performances at WJMS.

**Creative Writing**

Creative Writing courses offer students the opportunity to develop and improve their technique and individual style in poetry, short story, drama, essays, and other forms of prose. The emphasis of the courses is on writing; however, students may study exemplary representations and authors to obtain a fuller appreciation of the form and craft. Although most creative writing classes cover several expressive forms, others concentrate exclusively on one particular form (such as poetry or playwriting).

### **Literature in Film (Trimester)**

Literature in Film will challenge students to look at a film as a literary piece of work by analyzing and connecting the visual elements of a film to the elements of a novel. Students will understand how visual effects translate into the written word by analyzing both film and novel.

### **Digital Design I (Trimester)**

In Digital Design I students make projects and solve problems in web design, game programming, 3D modeling, photo manipulation, and audio production. Students will learn about professional practices and explore college and career paths in these areas, which might include class visits from current professionals. This course can also include a student portfolio of digital work showing their creativity and problem-solving skill.

### **Instrumental Music – Concert Band**

Concert Band is a class for advanced instrumentalists who are experienced on their instrument. Emphasis will be on literature, standards, and growth in technical skill. There will be required evening performances at WJMS.

### **Instrumental Music – Orchestra**

Orchestra is a class for advanced instrumentalists who are experienced on their instrument. Emphasis will be on literature, standards, and growth in technical skill. There will be required evening performances at WJMS.

### **Physical Education (Trimester)**

The Physical Education program is designed to develop and enhance a wide variety of physical skills and activities, along with increasing overall fitness levels including: cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength, muscular endurance, agility, flexibility, and motor coordination. This class will also help develop a positive attitude toward physical activity, help create a positive self-image, increase cognitive knowledge of health related fitness, promote teamwork, and encourage good sportsmanship. Students are expected to wear the required WJMS PE uniform and be prepared to fully participate on a daily basis.

### **Pre-Engineering 7 (Trimester)**

Pre-Engineering students will explore technology-oriented applications of mathematics and science their study of design and the production process. Students will also use critical thinking skills to plan and conduct research, manage projects, solve problems and investigate future careers in technology and engineering.

### **Robotics (Trimester)**

Robotics courses develop and expand students' skills and knowledge so that they can design and develop robotic devices. Topics covered in the course may include mechanics, electrical and motor controls, pneumatics, computer basics, and programmable logic controllers.

### **Broadcast Technology (Trimester)**

This hands-on class will provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to produce media broadcast programs. The students will prepare and produce short programs while learning the technical aspects of the operation and how to evaluate programming and assess audience reaction and impact.

### **Mentorship (Trimester) – Must fill out application form**

This elective teaches group problem-solving and strategies for helping make lasting connections between students with and without disabilities in the school community. It may also be used as a class that focuses on developing leadership skills, and organizing school-wide activities, and activities which model positive, respectful and extraordinary behavior.

**West Jefferson Middle School reserves the right to change course offerings based on enrollment and staffing.**