Lamar Middle School and Fine Arts Academy

Fine Arts Majors

Majors	Teachers	A major is a set of courses that provide depth in a certain area
Band	Raul Escobedo Alicia Villanueva Matthew Ehlers	**Beginning** – Clarinet, Double Reed, Flute, Horn, Percussion, Saxophone, Trombone, and Trumpet. **Sub Non-Varsity** – Concert Band **Non-Varsity** – Symphonic Band (placement by audition) **Varsity** – Symphonic Winds (placement by audition) **Jazz Factory –** (placement by audition) – must be concurrently enrolled in Symphonic Band or Symphonic Winds.
Choir	Megan Starkey	**Beginning –**"Purple Pups" – 6th graders only **Beginning** – Treble Choir - "Canine Chorale" - 7th and 8th grade girls **Intermediate** – Treble Choir - "Doggie Dames" - 7th and 8th grade girls **Intermediate/Advanced** – Boys choir -"Top Dawgs" - 6th grade male choir majors; 7th and 8th grade boys **Advanced** – "Scottie Singers" (Treble Choir) – 7th and 8th grade girls through audition only Recommended: **Musical Theatre (prerequisite -** one year of either theatre or choir and director's approval for the other area not taken) – explores the art form of the American musical. All students in the class will work either as cast, crew or both for the musical production and showcase
Classical Guitar	David Conger	**Beginning** – for beginners at all grade levels **Intermediate** and **Advanced** - (placement by audition) **Music Theory is offered to 8th graders in intermediate and advanced guitar.**
Creative Writing	Rachel Dietz Catherine Vouvray	**Creative Writing I** – This course provides experience in writing in several genres. Students engage in the writing process designed to produce compositions suitable for publishing. Students examine important examples of literature in relevant genres as models and as subjects for technical analysis. The following courses are both semester long and require Creative Writing I as a prerequisite: **Creative Writing II** – Students read and write in a variety of genres. **Narrative Writing** – Students read and write short stories and narrative nonfiction. **Script Writing** – Students write one-act plays or screenplays for short films. **Poetry** – Students will examine and write different genres of poetry such an epic poem, narrative, romantic, dramatic, and lyric. **Novel Writing** – students brainstorm ideas, develop characters, and work with plot and conflict to outline a middle-grade novel. Students will write the first draft of their novel. All work will be done in class. **Advanced Writer's Workshop/Literary Magazine** – Students create a portfolio of polished pieces. Students review submissions and create the literary magazine, *Muse.*
Dance	Natalia Luna Emily Roe Julia Julian	**Dance I** - Introduction to Dance – Social/World dance, Ballet, Jazz, and History of dance **Dance II** - (prerequisite – Dance I or placement by audition)– Ballet, Jazz, Contemporary/Modern, and Tap dance. **Dance III** - (placement by audition)– Ballet, Jazz, Contemporary/Modern, Tap and Choreography. **Dance Company** – (placement by audition; only 7th and 8th graders) – Performance-based course. Ballet, Jazz, Contemporary/Modern, Tap, and Choreography; represents Lamar at district performances. **Ballet** – (placement by audition or completed Dance I) – students may take Ballet as their only dance class (which counts as PE credit), or along with another dance class (which will then count as a fine arts credit).
Digital Arts & Media	Virginia Rowland Leslie Baldwin Brian Cox Alyssa Godina	**Digital Photography I** – Students will be expected to develop an understanding of photography in both industry and creative arts with a focus on creating quality photographs. **Photo II: Advanced Digitally Created** – Students will learn advanced features of Adobe Photoshop to enhance their digital photographs (SM). **Photo II: Advanced Camera and Equipment** – Students will learn advanced digital camera skills including working with the histogram, hand-held meters, raw images, lighting techniques, studio photography and more (SM). **Multimedia/Animation I** – Students create multimedia projects as well as computer and media literacy, history of animation, project management, and Photoshop animation (YR). **Multimedia/Animation II** (**Principles of Art, A/V Technology, and Communication)** – prerequisite of Keyboarding, Graphic Design, Photography, Multimedia/Animation, or Video Game Design; High School Credit – Students develop an understanding of the various and multifaceted career opportunities in Arts and AV (8th-grade only or instructor approval; YR).
Orchestra	Jeni Berecek	**Beginning** - Upper strings and lower strings for beginners at all grade levels. **Non-varsity** - for students with at least one year of playing experience **Symphony (Varsity) Orchestra** – (placement by audition only) **Alternative Strings** – performing group that plays a mixture of genres (must also be in concert).
Theatre Arts	Le Easter James Young	**Beginning Performance** – An intro to movement/mime, theatre history, voice/diction, characterization, improvisation, playwriting, and creative ensemble. **Beginning Technical** – Intro to theatrical basics, stage terminology, theatre history, and backstage theatre roles. **Intermediate** – (placement by audition) – continue with development of basic skills, and represent Lamar at the AISD Drama Festival; productions performed for classroom audiences. **Advanced Theatre Production** - (placement by audition) – productions performed for the main stage; represent Lamar at the AISD One Act Play and Drama Festival; will also produce a spring play. Recommended: **Musical Theatre** (prerequisite **-** one year of either theatre or choir and director's approval for the other area not taken) – explores the art form of the American musical. All students in the class will work either as cast, crew, or both for the musical production and showcase.
Visual Arts	Sara Massey James Perkins Jacklyn Thomas	**Art Studio - Beginning** - An intro to drawing, painting, ceramics, printmaking, screen printing, 2D/3D design, sculpture & found art **Art Studio - Intermediate** - Intermediate drawing, painting, ceramics, printmaking, screen printing, 2D/3D design, sculpture and found art **VADA I and VADA II** – Students may take these courses instead of traditional 6th and 7th art. VADA has two art teachers – one in the art studio and one in the digital lab. **HS Art I** (high school credit) – open to all 8th graders with at least two years of art experience or instructor approval. High School drawing, painting, ceramics, printmaking, screen printing, 2D/3D design, sculpture and introduction to art history.

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Non-Fine Arts Majors

Strand	A major is a set of courses that provide depth in a certain area
Computer Science - Path 1	**1. Intro to Computational Thinking (ICF) –** a semester-long course where students learn how to formulate a problem so it can be solved by a computer. Students will use Scratch, HTML (CSS), RobotC, and an intro to Python and Java to create programs and interactive games. **2. PLTW Computer Science for App Creators AND Innovators and Makers:** App Creators - students will develop mobile apps as solutions to authentic problems that they have analyzed. Innovators and Makers - will center on physical computing projects that bring programming out of the virtual environment and into the physical world. Throughout the unit, students will design and develop programmed devices along with the code that brings them to life. These two semester-long courses, when taken together, are a high school credit course. **3A. Internet of Things (Fall Semester**) – students will learn how computational thinking can be applied in real life. Students will use Python, HTML, Java, and RobotC to develop their own virtual reality website, design apps, build games, and create a computing device. **3B. Advanced Computer Science (Spring Semester and must be enrolled or have completed Algebra I) –** this is a rigorous course using Code.org's AP computer science course material. It combines the applied coding experience from Year 1 and Year 2 with AP coursework to prepare students for high school's AP computer science program.
Computer Science - Path 2	**1.** Art 6, Graphic Design, or Digital Photography **2. PLTW Computer Science for App Creators AND Innovators and Makers:** App Creators - students will develop mobile apps as solutions to authentic problems that they have analyzed. Innovators and Makers - will center on physical computing projects that bring programming out of the virtual environment and into the physical world. Throughout the unit, students will design and develop programmed devices along with the code that brings them to life. These two semester-long courses, when taken together, are a high school credit course. **3A. Video Game Design I** – (prerequisite: ICF, ACIM, Photography, Graphic Design, Teacher Approval) Students gain knowledge and skills in the area of web design, appropriate use of hardware, software, and connectivity technologies. Students explore the programming language HTML used in the design of websites and an introduction to JavaScript. **3B. Video Game Design II** (prerequisite: Web Design I) - Students gain advanced knowledge and skills in the area of web design. Students continue exploring and applying the programming language HTML, JavaScript and are introduced to CSS.
Engineering (PLTW)	**1A. Flight and Space (FS) –** high school credit-- Students explore the history of flight and space, discover the science behind aeronautics,and explore traveling and living in space. Students then use their knowledge to design, build and test aircraft. **1B. Energy and Environment (EE) –** high school credit-- Students explore sustainable solutions to our energy needs and investigate the impact of energy on our lives and the world. They design and model alternative energy sources and evaluate options for reducing energy consumption. **2A. Design and Modeling (DM) –** high school credit-- Students use 3D modeling software to create a virtual image of their designs and produce a portfolio of their innovative solutions. **2B Automation and Robotics (AR) –** high school credit-- Students use the VEX Robotics platform to design, build, and program real-world objects as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation and computer control systems. **3A. Magic of Electrons (ME**) – high school credit -- (Prerequisite: DMAR) Through hands-on projects, students explore electricity, the behavior and parts of atoms, and sensing devices. They learn basic circuitry design and the impact of electricity around them. **3B. Science of Technology (ST) –** high school credit-- (Prerequisite: DMAR) Students apply the concepts of physics, chemistry, and nanotechnology to STEM activities and projects, including making ice cream, cleaning up an oil spill, and discovering the properties of nano-materials.
Languages Other Than English	6th/7th grades – Level IA and Level IB in one of the following languages: French, Japanese, and/or Spanish. Students can take IA in 6th grade and IB in 7th grade for a full year (Level I) language credit. 7th/8th grades – Level I and Level II in one of the following languages: French, Japanese, and/or Spanish. Students begin Level I in 7th or 8th grade. Spanish for Spanish Speakers I, II, and AP-IV can be taken by DL students or native Spanish Speakers.
Advanced Science	All 3 courses are semester-long and may be taken in any order. **Exploring Astronomy** – A project-based learning course where students are introduced to the composition and structure of the universe. Content includes historical astronomy and astronomical instruments, the celestial sphere and the earth as a system in space, the solar system, the universe, galaxies, and stars. **Exploring Aquatic Science** – Students will explore freshwater and marine ecosystems while analyzing current aquatic challenges and potential solutions. **Exploring Forensic Science:** Students will learn how to systematically examine crime scenes, analyze evidence and solve real world problems by focusing on this history of forensic science, fingerprint and DNA evidence, blood spatter patterns, and human remains.
Dual Language	Spanish for Spanish Speakers 3A, 3, and AP4 can be taken by DL students or native Spanish Speakers. 6th Grade – participants must take Spanish for Spanish Speakers 3A (high school credit), Pre-AP DL World History 7th Grade – participants must take Spanish for Spanish Speakers 3 (high school credit) and Pre-AP DL Texas History 8th Grade – participants must take AP Spanish 4 and Pre-AP DL US History

For more information about Lamar MS & FAA, please visit our website at www.lamarmiddleschool.org.

Helpful links include the LMSFAA Overview Presentation, Scottie Newsletters, Choice Sheets and Related Information for Parents, and the Fine Arts Academy.