

# da Vinci Arts Option Descriptions for 2016-2017

## HOW THINGS WORK

da Vinci general education students take 2 arts classes a day. Most students with IEPs take one Arts class and a Study Skills class each day. Some arts classes are year-long while others are 9-weeks long. We do our best to ensure that all students are placed into Arts class options that reflect their passion and interests.

6th graders with 2 Arts classes take the Explore Rotation (4 different Arts over the year!) as one of their classes and one Year-Long Arts class. 6th graders in a Year-Long Dance class do not take a quarter term of Dance in their Explore Rotation.

We do our best to place students in their top choice, but this is not always possible, so be sure to rank all arts options when asked in forecasting. Be sure to follow instructions on the forecasting form.

## APEX Program

Alternative Phys Ed Experience

PPS requires middle school students to have a PE program each year. At da Vinci all of our 6th grade students and most of our 7th & 8th grade students take a dance class.

7th and 8th graders seeking 2 Arts classes that do not include Dance will need to apply for selection into an Alternate Physical Education Experience (APEX) requirement course. (This program is not an option for 6th graders.)

A parent or guardian must approve this preference because their support in documenting physical activity and monitoring completion of course requirements is critical, because all elements of APEX are completed outside of the school day. All assignments will be available on an APEX website.

## 9 week Exploratory Classes

### DRAMA

#### Explore Drama

This class exposes students to the foundations of theatre, improv, and ensemble work. Students will create and perform scripted and improvised scenes to be performed in class and will develop vocabulary for assessing their own performance as well as that of their peers.

### DANCE

#### Explore Dance

This class introduces students to the fundamentals of movement, coordination, rhythm and music. In class, students learn the basic tenets and concepts of Tap, Jazz, Ballet and Modern Dance. It is designed to enhance body conditioning strength, control and flexibility and to develop an awareness of basic alignment and principles of safe and effective movement.

### MUSIC

#### Explore African Drumming

This term class focuses on the traditional songs and rhythms of West Africa. We will be using authentic instruments including djembe, sangban and kenkene.

The students will also gain communication and leadership skills by learning to listen for signals and cues within each rhythm or song.

#### Explore Guitar

Students will be learning all aspects of playing the guitar including chords, strumming, tablature, staff reading, scales, soloing, performing technology and more! Open to students who have never played before through intermediate level guitarists, the focus will be on individual student growth and progress on the guitar. We have guitars here at da Vinci or you can bring your own. This course may also be available as a year long course for interested students.

### VISUAL ART

#### Explore 2-D Visual Art

Students will learn basic sketching and shading skills. We will experiment with different dry media throughout the course including oil pastels, color pencils, pencils and markers. The class will teach different art techniques, all in an encouraging and fun environment.

#### Explore 3-D Visual Art

Students in the quarter long 3D class will learn a variety of three dimensional visual art techniques, including ceramics, paper mache, and plaster. Students will explore media to transform their creativity into sculptural or functional objects and works of art.

### LITERARY ART

#### Explore Creative Writing

In this course, students will have the opportunity to create and polish their own fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. With peer and adult support, they will practice generating writing ideas, drafting, revising, and publishing their work. Each quarter, students will have the opportunity to work on their own writing projects, such as stories, poems, essays or personal narratives, picture books, plays, songs, screenplays, graphic novels, novellas, etc. This course may also be available as a year long course for interested students.

For those 7th and 8th grade students wishing to take Year-Long Guitar or Creative Writing, there is an option to substitute dance for one quarter so that they are not required to take APEX.

***Class offerings may vary due to student interest and funding.***

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## **- Year-long Arts Focus Classes -**

### **MUSIC**

#### **Choir**

This class is open to all students. The focus of the class is to develop singing, sight-reading, and rehearsal skills. Students will sing music from a variety of cultures and historical periods including some popular, contemporary songs that will be presented throughout the year. Attendance at ALL performances, both in and out of school is mandatory.

#### **Beginning Concert Band**

For students with little or no experience. Instruction on flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, tuba, and percussion. Open to all students regardless of experience and/or skills. Attendance at ALL performances is mandatory.

#### **Intermediate & Advanced Concert Band**

This is an auditioned ensemble designed for students who have completed beginning band and have mastered certain basic skills required for Intermediate/Advanced Concert Band. Instruction on flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, tuba, and percussion. Attendance at ALL performances both in and out of school is mandatory.

#### **Year-long Guitar in Explore**

Students will be learning all aspects of playing the guitar including chords, strumming, tablature, staff reading, scales, soloing, performing technology and more! The focus will be on individual student growth and progress on the guitar. Students who choose to take this explore based class as a year-long option will benefit from a deeper and ongoing investment in their own musicianship and have the potential to cultivate their own musical leadership skills. We have guitars here at da Vinci or you can bring your own.

8th graders engage in a Mastery / Capstone Arts experience associated with a specific year-long arts class. This should be indicated as their first choice on the forecasting form. The Arts teachers will work together to ensure students are placed in the appropriate Arts classes.

### **VISUAL ART**

#### **2-D Visual Art**

Students in these classes will learn a variety of two dimensional visual art techniques, including drawing, acrylic painting, water color painting, pastels, charcoal, collage, and printmaking. Students will transform their creativity into drawings, paintings, and other two dimensional artworks.

#### **B&W Darkroom Photography**

Students will learn the basics of composition, pinhole photography, parts of the camera, film development and print processing using enlargers and filters. We will look at the history of photography and research a photographer. Students will need to have their own working camera as well as purchase film.

#### **3-D Visual Art**

Students in the year long 3D class will learn a variety of three dimensional visual art techniques, including ceramic sculpture, wheel thrown pottery, paper mache, plaster, masks, and mixed media sculpture. Students will explore media to transform their creativity into sculptural or functional objects and works of art.

#### **Textiles/Fiber Arts**

Students in the year-long textiles class will have the opportunity to deeply explore the art of weaving on a floor loom, as well as other fiber art forms, such as felting, sewing, embroidery, screen printing, and dying fabric.

### **LITERARY ART**

#### **Year-long Creative Writing**

In this class, students will have the opportunity to create and polish their own fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. They will generate, draft, revise, and publishing their work. Each quarter, students will craft writing projects, such as stories, poems, essays or personal narratives, picture books, plays, songs, screenplays, graphic novels, novellas, etc.

### **DRAMA**

#### **Drama**

In this class, students will delve into their development as a theatre performer. Students will work to have the skills of voice and speech, auditioning and storytelling. Students will also work on the tools of character and movement. Exploration of scene work, play writing, and performance are aligned with national performing arts standards.

#### **Advanced Drama**

This is an auditioned class for students who have already taken explore drama and/or regular drama. In this class, students will work on directing, technical theatre, playwriting, and devising theatre. They will have the opportunity to see a play as a class, as well as have exclusive workshops in various theatre forms by guest artists.

#### **Masters Drama**

8th grade only. This year the focus is understanding that self-expression involves a sequential, creative process called problem solving. Whether the teacher or the student generates the initial problem, the process of reaching a solution is the same. By the end of the year, the Master theater student will work with a small group of fellow Masters to create a theatrical piece using the Elements of Theater, their mind, spirit and body.

### **DANCE**

#### **Apprentice, Journeyman & Master in Dance Levels 1-4**

Yearlong classes build on successively higher technical skill levels and emphasize proper technique. Styles include Tap, Jazz, Ballet and Modern. Participation in yearly dance recitals is required. This entails several after school rehearsals and 3-4 weekend performances. For these performances the class works together like a dance company and the presence of every member is essential.

Class descriptions of the 9-week Exploratory classes are on the other side.