



Hamilton Township School District

William Davies Middle School

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Dear Parent/Guardian:

The 7th Grade "Related Arts Talented Choice" is an exciting program, which will be offered to 7th and 8th grade students for the 2015-2016 school year. Curriculum will be provided in our related arts cycle in order for students to increase their learning time in one of the following areas: Graphic Arts, Traditional Art, Band, Choir, Literacy and Media Technology, Financial Literacy, S.T.E.M. or World Language (Spanish). Next year, students will be afforded the opportunity to take three marking periods of one of the classes. All students will still need to take one marking period of World Language as required by State Law. Students who choose World Language will take four marking periods of this subject. Sixth graders will not be eligible for this program, with the exception of Band and Choir. We believe sixth graders need to experience all of the related arts during their first year at the Davies School.

Related Arts teachers explained the program options during an assembly on April 29th. Your child is asked to provide their guidance counselors with their top three choices. Every effort will be made to provide your child their top preference of choice; however, due to space and demand in the program, their selection is not guaranteed. Students are encouraged to make their choices carefully and consider their interests and talents when choosing their Related Arts program. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your child's guidance counselor.

Respectfully,

Stephen P. Santilli

Stephen P. Santilli

Lead Learner (Principal)



All Children Can Learn! All Children Can Succeed!

RECIPIENT OF NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON AWARD, NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STAR SCHOOL AND BEST PRACTICE AWARDS

Arts:

Graphic Arts

Students gain knowledge of concepts and techniques used in the field of graphic arts. The 7th grade course will serve as an introduction to graphic design. The grade 8 course will focus on expanding student knowledge of graphic arts and design and will also discuss related careers.

The content should include, but not be limited to effectively using the elements and principles of design, understanding of visual communication through the development of a product, and developing proficiency in illustration techniques. Projects will use a combination of technology and traditional media.

Fine Arts

Students taking the Fine Arts course will have art for three marking periods. After taking this course, students will be able to use the Elements (Line, Form, Color, Value, and Texture) and Principles of Design (Balance, Rhythm, Variety, Harmony, and Emphasis) to develop their artistic skills and create projects inspired by traditional art forms from cultural groups around the world. Moreover, they will explore the creative process with a wide range of materials, which include pencil, pastel, paint, mixed media, clay and other 3-D materials. In addition, different techniques and approaches will be introduced including Art History and aesthetics. Students in 7th grade art will display their work at the annual Davies art exhibit at the Mays Landing library.

Business/Mathematics:

Financial Literacy

Students taking Financial Literacy will be taking the course for 3 Marking Periods. This class is designed to prepare you for real world financial decisions that you will use throughout your lives. The topics in this class will expand upon topics covered in 6th Grade Financial Literacy class, but will have a project-based learning approach. The topics will include researching and applying for jobs, comparing credit cards and debit cards, filing a tax return, opening a bank account, saving for retirement, and researching ways to pay for college.

Performing Arts:

Band

Band class is for students who play a brass, woodwind, percussion, or string instrument. Along with playing a variety of concert band music, students will also learn music theory, music history, and have the opportunity to explore creative opportunities with music technology. Students with exemplary playing ability will be offered the opportunity to audition for the Region III Honors Band and for Atlantic County Teen Arts. Band members may join the Dragon Percussion Ensemble and Swing Kids Jazz Band. Students will also have the opportunity to audition for the annual Performing Arts Night held each March. Band and Choir members are offered numerous performance opportunities outside of the school as members of the music ensembles. All members are expected to attend after school rehearsals and perform in the annual Holiday and Spring Concerts, as well as the New Jersey State Band Festival at Rowan University. Band and Choir members are eligible for special achievement awards as part of the 8th Grade Honors Awards Ceremony. (Please note that students are required to utilize and maintain their own instruments or rent an instrument through the Davies School Music Program when applicable.)

Performing Arts Continued:

Show Choir

The Show Choir class is for students who enjoy singing and would like to refine their vocal performance talent. Along with singing a variety of choral music in Classical, Jazz, Broadway, and Contemporary styles, students will also learn music theory, music history, and have the opportunity to explore creative opportunities with music technology. Choir members learn correct vocal technique as well as ear training and sight-singing. Students with exemplary singing ability will have the opportunity to audition for the Region III Honors Choir and for Atlantic County Teen Arts. Choir members perform each year in the New Jersey State Choral Festival at Rowan University. Students will also be offered the opportunity to audition for the annual Performing Arts Night held each March. Band and Choir members are offered numerous performance opportunities outside of the school as members of the music ensembles. All members are expected to attend after school rehearsals and perform in the annual Holiday and Spring Concerts, as well as the 8th Grade Graduation Exercises. Band and Choir members are eligible for special achievement awards as part of the 8th Grade Honors Awards Ceremony.

Foreign Language:

World Language - (Spanish)

The choice of World Language is a 4 marking period commitment. Students will build vocabulary thematically as well as improve skills in speaking and writing in Spanish.

Basic question and answer conversations pertaining to real life scenarios will be the focus in seventh grade. These topics will be extended in eighth grade to include reflexive, preterite and imperfect verb tenses.

World Language (1MP) - (Spanish)

When in marking period one of World Language class, all students will increase their ability to create original sentences to communicate basic wants and needs. They will review basic vocabulary terms in context while learning sentence structure and new vocabulary, such as the days of the week will be used to tell when I want to go to the movies - Quiero ir al cine el martes.

Technology:

S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics)

S.T.E. M. students will study the Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Gateway to Technology curriculum for 3 marking periods. Students will get rigorous and relevant experiences through activity-, project-, and problem-based learning. They will use industry-leading technology to solve problems while gaining skills in communication, collaboration, critical-thinking, and creativity. In the Design & Modeling unit, the students will apply the design process to solve problems and understand the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. In the Automation & Robotics unit, the students will trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics. They will use the VEX Robotics platform to design, build, and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, toll booths, and robotic arms. PLTW offers world-class curriculum, high-quality professional development, as well as an engaged network of educators and corporate partners which will help students develop the 21st Century Life and Career skills needed to be successful.

Literacy and Media Technology

Literacy and Media Technology (LMT) is a project-based course that utilizes 21st Century Technology skills to help create digital projects. Over the three semesters, students will have the opportunity to create individual and group projects using different software and Web 2.0 Tools. Basic technology skills that are covered in 7th grade LMT include: Website Creation, Coding and Programming, Digital Publishing and Storytelling, Online Research, Computer Aided Design, and Photo/Video Editing. Students can expect to work with programs such as Google Apps for Education, Scratch, Google SketchUp, MinecraftEDU, Voki, Google Earth, and various digital publishing tools.