



SPRING VALLEY ACADEMY COURSE DESCRIPTIONS Grades 6-8 2020-2021

CORE CLASSES

All students will receive instruction in: **Language & Literature, Math, Physical & Health Education, Individuals & Societies, and Science**. Students will also have the opportunity to take one elective course (see below).

Personalized Pathways ensure that each learner is given the challenge and support needed for academic success at Spring Valley Academy and beyond. **Challenge, enrichment, or support classes may be assigned as additional core classes depending on academic needs.**

ELECTIVE CLASSES

The following are tentative course offerings for the 2020-2021 school year, which are subject to change based on enrollment.

All 6th graders will have two choices for the 2020/21 school year:

WORLD LANGUAGE: Spanish.

Students with limited Spanish speaking skills will be placed in a beginning level course for World Language Acquisition. Students who are native Spanish speakers will be placed in a World Language Acquisition course with a focus on developing biliteracy.

ELECTIVE WHEEL

This option gives students experience and exposure to a variety of electives throughout the school year. Each trimester, the students will get to experience one of the following courses:

- **Computer Science:** This program features a project-based curriculum designed to challenge and engage the natural curiosity and imagination of middle school students. Students will first learn the basics of various computer science languages to create simple app or website projects.
- **Art:** This class will introduce students to a range of visual art mediums. Students will learn how to express themselves using visual rhetoric, the principles of design, and the elements of art.
- **Music:** This class will introduce students to the basic principles of music and give students

exposure to different musical genres and instruments.

7th & 8th grade only: Year Long Electives

ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT:

WORLD LANGUAGE: Spanish

Students with limited Spanish speaking skills will be placed in a beginning level course for World Language Acquisition. Students who are native Spanish speakers will be placed in a World Language Acquisition course with a focus on developing biliteracy.

CREATIVE WRITING

This class will focus on expressive writing in many different forms which may include fiction, poetry, plays, comic strips, and children's books. Students will study the elements of fiction writing, including character development, plot structure, and theme. Students will also read and explore short stories and poems, and study the literary techniques authors use to express themselves. Students will have the opportunity to examine, evaluate, and respond to literature, art, architecture, and music, as well as analyze ways in which these elements influence writing. Students will have opportunities to work collaboratively, as well as share ideas and peer review the work of our classmates.

LEADERSHIP DESIGN:

ASB (Associated Student Body) (Application Required)

Leadership Design is a required course for ASB officers and an elective class for students who demonstrate leadership qualities. The Leadership Design class is designed to give these school leaders the necessary skills to carry out their specific duties, as well as to prepare them for leadership opportunities in the future. Students will learn about student government, meeting skills, goal setting, event planning and promotion, communication, problem solving, human relations, parliamentary procedure, and other leadership related skills. Students will have the opportunity to apply the knowledge gained in the course to design and coordinate the student activities at Spring Valley Academy.

A completed application form and the approval of your ASB Advisor and counselor are required for enrollment in this course. Any student enrolled in Leadership Design who receives an F or U or a G.P.A. below a 2.0 on any quarter report card will be transferred from student leadership class to an available elective. Any student enrolled in Leadership Design who receives a D or N on any quarter report card will be placed on probation.

YEARBOOK (Application Required)

Seventh and eighth grade students are invited to apply to be on the yearbook staff. This is a competitive process that is a yearlong commitment and includes an application and **a teacher recommendation**. You must be an A or B student with no Ns or Us in Citizenship. You **MUST** be a team

player who is committed, creative, an excellent writer and willing to stay after school to meet approaching deadlines, and attend evening school events. Yearbook staff members will participate in photographing school events, creating and designing layouts using our iMac computers, and writing copy for yearbook articles. This is a leadership opportunity that will look great on high school and college applications.

SOCIAL MEDIA/BROADCASTING (*Application Required*)

Social Media/Broadcasting explores the ever-growing world of digital media. The class will focus on the effect of audio and visual media in the world. The curriculum will include podcasting, public speaking, contributing to the morning broadcasts, video editing, advertising, movie making, photojournalism and digital storytelling.

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS (VAPA):

BEGINNING BAND

This is the perfect class for anyone wanting to learn how to play a musical instrument for the first time! ***Beginners may check out a wind instrument for free*** and can try several until they find the one that's just right for them. When you reach a certain level you can try out for the Eagle's Pride Marching Band or another ensemble.

All band kids can earn and work their way onto trips, special shows, parades, get special placement in high school and even go for scholarships. Enjoy teamwork, community service and learn special skills with a group of very special kids!

ADVANCED BAND (*teacher recommendation required*)

This is the top-level performing group and may only be joined by audition and the director's approval. In Advanced Band, sometimes called Wind Ensemble, students play the best music, participate in the Eagle's Pride Marching Band, Pep Band, jazz and small ensembles, travel to away concerts and festivals, and perform with local high schools.

Because these band kids tend to miss classes each month they are expected to maintain a GPA above a C. Most Advanced band kids have their own instrument and are on track for high school band.

SONIC EXPRESSIONS

If you enjoy music and helping others then Sonic Expressions may be the perfect class for you! Sonic Expressions is a specialized band for our students with some special needs. We teach you how to be a peer buddy and how to teach other kids to play special kinds of drums, "boom whackers", hand bells, singing and more. Band builds character, social awareness (that means making friends), and makes being a good student easier. This is something we want to share with every student at Spring Valley Academy!

BEGINNING STUDIO ARTS

This class will introduce students to a wide range of visual art mediums including watercolor, tempera, printmaking, digital art, ceramics, pen and ink, charcoal, pastel, and others. Students will learn how to express themselves using visual rhetoric, the principles of design, and the elements of art. Art history and art appreciation will be explored by students as they learn how to analyze, critique, and compose art.

ADVANCED STUDIO ARTS *(application required)*

This class is for students who have taken Beginning Studio Arts and are serious about learning all they can about visual rhetoric. Students in this class will learn how to use their art to communicate ideas and be persuasive. Advanced Studio Arts students will learn to use the investment theory of creativity, the creative process, and research to create original art in response to contemporary issues. Students in this class will also build on technical art and design skills they developed in Beginning Studio Arts.

DANCE/STEP

Stepping is a form of percussive dance; which is the mixture of footsteps, spoken words, and hand claps. Students will learn rhythm and movement through collaboration and teamwork.

CROSSFIT/HEALTH

CROSSFIT is a lifestyle characterized by safe, effective exercise and sound nutrition. CrossFit can be used to accomplish any goal, from improved health to weight loss to better performance. Students will learn the fundamentals of health and nutrition to understand how to promote and sustain physical and mental well-being.

COMMUNITY SERVICE DESIGN:

LIBRARY AIDE *(Application Required)*

Library monitors are responsible for checking-in and checking-out library books to students, they help put books back on the library shelves, deliver passes and books to classrooms and assist other students that have questions concerning the library.

OFFICE AIDE *(Application Required)*

Provide support and assistance in the Front Office or Counselor/AP's Office. Students will assist office staff with clerical tasks, deliver passes and greet the public. Students must have good citizenship and attendance to be considered for this position.

PEER BUDDY *(Application Required)*

Students assist in our Special Education program under the supervision of the teacher and paraprofessionals.

TECHNOLOGY DESIGN:

COMPUTER SCIENCE

The Computer Science program features a project-based curriculum designed to challenge and engage the natural curiosity and imagination of middle school students. Students will first learn the basics of various computer science languages such as block languages (Scratch, MIT App Inventor), Python and HTML, and CSS to create simple app or website projects. They will then use the design cycle to target needs in the community for a final culminating project highlighting the programming skills they learned.

