



Hadley Exploratory: Fine Arts & STEAM Electives

Fine Arts Electives (Year Long)

Fine Arts courses allow students to explore instrumental and/or vocal music for the entire year. Students' participation in music fosters creativity, promotes critical thinking, and increases aesthetic awareness.

Band is home to an average of 300 students in grades 6-8, with participation in six grade-level concert bands. The bands are divided into two concert bands per grade level that meet daily during the school day. Students are not pulled out of other classes to participate in band, orchestra, or chorus. Students develop instrument-specific and ensemble skills and engage in a well-rounded curriculum, with an aim to help the students grow musically, academically, and socially. Additionally, the ensembles rehearse and prepare great and challenging pieces of band literature and work toward the goal of performing together for concerts, festivals, and other events. The bands perform in two to three concerts per year.

Along with the concert band is a thriving extracurricular jazz band program of which over 100 students participate in grade level ensembles. The jazz bands meet after school once per week to perform music of varying styles, including jazz, pop, rock, and Latin music.

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Chorus is a vocal ensemble which participates in concerts during the school year, and meets during the school day. The choruses are organized by grade level, and perform three concerts a year. Class participation will assist the student in developing basic vocal technique, music literacy, and an increased ability to appreciate the musical art. Self-confidence and poise will be gained through successful performances. Enrollment in Chorus is open to any student. Yearly activities include concerts and other special presentations.

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Orchestra classes are grouped by grade level during the school day and are not pulled out of academic classes. Students are in large ensemble groups mixed with four to five different instruments. As with other classes, students will be given a grade at the end of each quarter. 6th grade orchestra is open to all students who have prior experience playing a stringed instrument. Hadley String Orchestra is comprised of students that are in the 7th and 8th grades.

There is one combined 6th grade orchestra rehearsal after school right before each concert. For the Hadley String Orchestra (8th Grade), there are small group lessons held before school which are held once a week until concert time approaches which then the orchestra rehearses on Tuesday and Thursday mornings before school. The orchestras perform for two district concerts during the year, which are held in the fall and in the spring. In addition to performances, all Hadley 8th grade students may partake in Solo and Ensemble Festival. The Hadley String Orchestra also participates in String Fest, IGSMO Organization Contest for District and State levels.

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Instrumental/Chorus Combo is available to all students in band and orchestra who wish to continue playing in an instrumental ensemble and also sing in chorus. Combo students attend band or orchestra three days a week, and chorus two days a week. They perform in all concerts of both ensembles. Students who wish to participate in band and chorus should register for the band/chorus combo. Students who wish to participate in orchestra and chorus should register for the orchestra/chorus combo. This option is open to all grade levels.

Exploratory STEAM Electives (Quarter Long)

Exploratory STEAM courses allow students to explore hands-on, interest-driven challenges inspired by real-world science, technology, engineering, arts/design, and mathematics (STEAM) topics while fostering the development of important 21st century skills. Students rotate through four quarter long STEAM classes offering an array of projects and other learning activities that integrate inquiry based learning, creative expression, problem solving, and the engineering processes.



Art Technology classes are grounded in inquiry, problem-solving and process-based learning with a STEAM focus.

- **6th Grade** - focuses on photography where students gain an understanding of Photographic technology using phones, tablets, Chromebooks, PIXLR software, and WEvideo as a vehicle to share their experiences with an audience. An example from the 'final' for this class: How can you do an assignment in your Math class using Photography?
- **7th Grade** - focuses on stop motion video where students gain an understanding of Photographic still-imaging technology using phones, tablets, Chromebooks, STORYBOARDTHAT, and WEvideo as a vehicle to share their experiences with an audience. An example from the 'final' for this class: How can you do an assignment in your Science class using Stop-Motion Video?
- **8th Grade** - focuses on video production where students gain an understanding of smartphone video technology using phones, tablets, Chromebooks, STORYBOARDTHAT, and WEvideo as a vehicle to share their experiences with an audience. All successful video content is created off-campus, uploaded to a shared drive, then downloaded for editing at school during class time. An example from the 'final' for this class: How can you communicate your production group's solution to a real-world problem using Video?



Visual Arts aims to provide students with a creative release as well as a visual outlet for self-expression. Students will grow in their art making abilities through the creation of a series of fun and engaging 2-D and 3-D works of art; all centered around deepening their knowledge of the elements and principles of design.

- **6th Grade** - focuses on a wide variety of art making styles and media in an effort to both encourage artistic exploration and to familiarize students with the foundational skills and methods used in future art courses. 6th grade art students will participate in both 2-D and 3-D art making using both traditional and non-traditional art making techniques.
- **7th Grade** - focuses on building upon the foundational skills they acquired in 6th grade. Students will expand content knowledge by creating more complex works of art focused on elevating their understanding of how to use the elements and principles of art. An emphasis is placed on artistic analysis as students perform critiques and reflect more deeply on their own art making practice.
- **8th Grade** - focuses on challenging the students to elevate their artwork to its highest level, both in terms of craftsmanship and artistic expression. Student's gain independence as projects favor self-expression and creative freedom. 8th grade artists will explore both 2-D and 3-D media expanding on their skills and emphasizing a deeper understanding of the subject. Students will routinely critique their own work as well as the work of their classmates in an effort to promote artistic growth throughout the classroom as all students strive to reach their fullest social, emotional and artistic potential.

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Family and Consumer Science is designed to help students acquire the basic living skills they need to know to be self-sufficient in today's changing world. In these project-based classes, students learn by working in collaborative groups. They experience problem-solving and hands-on activities with STEM connections.

- **6th Grade** - focuses on life skills including child development; foods and nutrition; sewing and clothing care; housing and interior decoration; and consumerism.
- **7th Grade** - focuses on food preparation and nutrition at a beginning level. Through cooking experiences, students acquire knowledge and skills in following and making simple recipes, measurements and conversions, basic cooking tools and appliances, and safe practices in the kitchen. The course culminates with a nutrition project and a "signature" dish challenge.
- **8th Grade** - focuses on food preparation and nutrition at an advanced level. Through cooking experiences, students learn the science behind such things as pastries, yeast doughs, and cakes. Students sharpen their basic cooking skills and are exposed to new tools and appliances while continuing to adhere to safe and sanitary practices in the kitchen. The course culminates with a nutrition project and a baking challenge.

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General Music classes are designed to introduce students to music in various ways.

- **6th Grade** - focuses on the ukulele. Students learn about music and practice habits through playing that little cousin of the guitar – the ukulele.

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STEM Exploration classes are designed to help students tackling real world issues/challenges through exploration, inquiry and problem solving experiences. Students are given various engineering challenges where they must define the problem, research and design a solution, build a model, test the model, and reflect on and improve their design. Challenges allow for multiple solutions and failure is a necessary part of learning.

- **6th Grade** - focuses on learning the engineering design cycle through basic engineering challenges. Students will work on engineering challenges such as: board game design, touchdown lander, catapults, pinball machines, 3d printing and Rube Goldberg machines.
- **7th Grade** - focuses on students using computers, math and science skills to design, program, test and present fully functional robots that carry out life-like automated tasks. Students will learn how to program their robot to move around. They will investigate how robots use light, touch and ultrasonic sensors.
- **8th Grade** - focuses on learning the engineering design cycle through advanced engineering challenges. Students will work on engineering challenges such as: mousetrap cars, roller coasters, egg crash cars, gumball machines, labyrinth games, and 3d printing.

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