



**Hadley Electives:
Fine Arts OR Exploratory
2024-2025**

Music Electives (Year Long)

Music 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 classes are grouped by grade level during the school day. Students are not pulled from other academic classes to participate in Band. Students learn together in large ensemble groups with all the band instruments, and also have the opportunity to learn in a small group instrument-specific settings. All students will have the opportunity to work with both Mr. Cooper and Ms. Tribley. Students 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 and other fun and exciting events, including workshops with guest clinicians, ILMEA District Festivals, Solo & Ensemble Festival, joint experiences with Glenbard West High School, performances at special athletic and school-wide events, and the annual Demonstration Concert.

- **6th Grade Band**- open to all students currently enrolled in 5th grade beginning band; continuation of previously learned band curriculum. Students also have the opportunity to transition to additional instruments including oboe, bassoon, bass clarinet, tenor and bari saxophone, French horn, tuba, and more percussion instruments.
- **7th Grade Band and 8th Grade Band**- continuations of previously learned band curriculum.

Along with the grade-level concert bands is a thriving extracurricular **Jazz Band** program. 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.

There is one combined 6th grade orchestra rehearsal after school right before each concert. There is also one combined 7th & 8th grade orchestra rehearsal after school right before each concert. 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 7th & 8th grade students may participate in Solo and Ensemble Festival. The Hadley String Orchestra also participates in String Fest, festivals and other events throughout the school year.


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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 contact their band teacher to make this request. Students who wish to participate in orchestra and chorus should contact their orchestra teacher to make this request. This option is open to all grade levels.

Exploratory Electives (Quarter Long)

Hadley operates on a quarter system; students have 4 classes that last 9 weeks each.

Exploratory 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 EXPLORATORY classes offering an array of projects and other learning activities that integrate inquiry based learning, creative expression, problem solving, and the engineering processes.



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.

- **Life Skills (6th Grade)** - focuses on life skills including child development; cooking and nutrition; sewing and clothing care; housing and interior decoration; and consumerism.
- **Cooking 1 (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.
- **Cooking 2 (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.

- **Ukulele (6th Grade)** - focuses on the ukulele. Students learn about music and practice habits through playing that little cousin of the guitar – the ukulele.
- **Hello Cello (8th Grade)** This course is "all about the cello." Students will be learning how to play the cello by performing in small groups and together as a large class ensemble. History of the cello and discussion of the many famous cellists throughout all time will also be explored. Students will gain musical knowledge through fun activities and playing musical games.
- **Music (7th Grade and 8th Grade)** - There are several possible Music Exploratories for 7th and 8th grade, including Hello Cello, Music in Media, and Guitar. Class offerings vary according to year and student enrollment.

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Performing Arts classes are designed for each student to become a more confident performer and presenter as well as a respectful, thoughtful listener.

- **So Dramatic (6th Grade)** - focuses on the elements of drama and the foundations of theater. There is a focus on the Actor's Tools including imagination, body movement, voice, cooperation, concentration, and courage. Students will perform readers theater, tableaux (living still pictures), pantomime/mime, speaking, and more. Through participation in drama/improv games and group work, this class fosters the growth of cooperation, focus, listening skills, teamwork, and more.
- **Speak Up (7th Grade)** - focuses on the foundations of public speaking with an emphasis on confidence, voice, eye contact, enthusiasm, gestures, and rate of speech. Students have a variety of choices in topics and receive opportunities to present to their peers. In addition to structuring and presenting speeches, there is a focus on communication among peers in small group settings and within pairs. Throughout our presentations, speaking games, and design challenges, students learn strategies to combat stage fright and leave the class with stronger speaking skills.
- **Performance Seminar (8th Grade)** - focuses on speaking, listening, and performing. Students will build upon the foundations of theater within this class as they will participate in individual and group performances, group games, theater exercises, improv, and more. Students will work as an ensemble or within teams on a variety of performance-based projects for an informal audience.

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STEM Exploration classes are designed to help students tackle 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.

- **Intro to STEM (6th Grade)** - focuses on learning the engineering design cycle through basic engineering challenges. Students will work on engineering challenges such as: board game design (with 3d printing), catapults, mini golf course, and scaling designing chairs.
- **Robotics & STEM (7th Grade)** - students work with LEGO robots to code, test and present fully functional robots that carry out life-like automated tasks. They will also use cardboard and other tools to participate in design challenges like labyrinth mazes and mechanical hands/claws.
- **Advanced STEM (8th Grade)** - focuses on learning the engineering design cycle through advanced engineering challenges. Students will work on engineering challenges such as: roller coasters, egg crash cars, cardboard builds and drones.

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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.

- **Art 6 (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.
- **Art 7 (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.
- **Art 8 (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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BookTok (6th and 8th grade) allows students to explore a wide range of reading opportunities while promoting a book culture that encourages a lifelong love of reading. Daily independent reading time is given to students, while in-class activities focus on exploring different authors and genres, as well as a forum to reflect and share insights gained from their reading.

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