

Lower School Bridge Elective

2022-23, Trimester 1

Name _____

Date _____

Core Teacher _____

Course Information	Student Ranking
<p>Playfully Connecting to Places (with Game Design)</p> <p>Want to help others (and yourself) gain better appreciation for the environment and uses of an outdoor space? You could do that in this course, by creating games based in specific locations. Digital option: design and develop mobile augmented reality games (think “Pokemon Go”), using the TaleBlazer online platform with Scratch-like coding. Non-digital option: design and create role-playing games in various styles, such as treasure hunt or mystery/puzzle. Games will involve physical features of the playspace (natural and/or human-made), as well as historical or demographic information. Locations include the Acera playground, Davidson Park, and possibly another nearby space.</p> <p>Art/Tech/Engineering, offered by Danny</p>	
<p>Community Art</p> <p>How does art address the social needs in our community? How does one build community through the arts? In this course we will learn about current community art projects and how artists use art to convey a message, shift culture and perception.</p> <p>Art/Tech/Engineering, offered by Stephanie</p>	
<p>Understanding the World Around Us Through Poetry</p> <p>Students will read poetry by different poets: Whites, Blacks, male, female, & poets from different countries. Students are expected to learn about different cultures of their own country (the US) and of different countries. They will be encouraged to write after having enough understanding what poetry is all about.</p> <p>Humanities/Social Sciences, offered by Namita</p>	

Upper School Bridge Elective

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Course Information	Student Ranking
<p>Civic Ecology</p> <p>Civic ecology examines the social and ecological results of positive human impact on the environment. In this class we will explore people, places, and practices that are restoring nature and revitalizing communities all over the world. Even better than that, we will join them! We will collect anecdotal and scientific data to prioritize stewardship actions, engage in existing or initiate our own civic ecology projects, and build relationships with and among the human and nonhuman members of our community. Are you sick of hearing about the problems we face as a planet and feeling overwhelmed, depressed, or maybe even helpless? Are you intrigued by the link between social and environmental solutions? Would you like to actually DO something to enact lasting change? This may be the class for you!</p> <p>Natural Sciences/Social Sciences, offered by Ashley</p>	
<p>Visual Storytelling</p> <p>Hone your storytelling craft and express your original ideas through comics and animatics, using visual art to build your worlds, develop your characters, and tell their stories.</p> <p>Art/Tech/Engineering, offered by Claudia</p>	
<p>Medical Specialists</p> <p>In this science class, we will play the role of medical specialists/diagnosticians and do a real case study of a 13-year-old girl, M’Kenna, who has recently started feeling sick all the time—and she was having a lot of alarming symptoms. We will diagnose her disease through hands-on projects and labs, collecting and analyzing medical data, and examining digestive system structure and function. We will also explore how a breakdown within the human body can lead to dysfunction.</p> <p>Natural Sciences, offered by Tian</p>	

Speculative Fiction

As more and more stories break traditional genre categories (what do you call a book about the Napoleonic Wars with dragons?), “speculative fiction” becomes an increasingly useful term. Together we will explore possible futures and alternate histories and realities. We will read short stories that explore all of these things, and find our own questions (or speculations) to write about. You can think of this course as a chance to explore the question “how might the world be different if....?” and to write explorations of the worlds created as well as of characters who might interact with those worlds. Each student will fully think through at least one of those speculative worlds, and explore one or more complete narratives in that world.

Humanities/Social Sciences, offered by Vered

Upper School Elective A (AM)

2022-23, Trimester 1

Name _____

Date _____

Core Teacher _____

Course Information	Student Ranking
<p>Wearable Art</p> <p>The goal of this course is to develop a creative and aesthetic understanding of textiles and their similarities to common art-making processes. Students will translate drawing and mixed media studies into textile art, as well as developing skills in hand sewing, machine sewing, felting, quilting, embroidery, sewable circuits and more. For the final project, students will conduct visual and technical research in response to a theme and produce an upcycled garment. Throughout the course, students will document and track their progress in a portfolio.</p> <p>Art/Tech/Engineering, offered by Adrienne and Camila</p>	
<p>Physics</p> <p>Students will explore the physics principles that describe motion through lab work, computer simulation, and classical problem solving. They will also gain insight into everyday scientific practice: setting up and running experiments, keeping a lab notebook, and presenting findings. Some questions we will explore in this course are: How do we describe motion? What causes objects to move? What are some of the forces we see in everyday life? How are force and motion connected?</p> <p>Natural Sciences/Maths, offered by Alexis</p>	

US Government

We will start by delving deeply into the Constitution to understand the essential structure of the federal government, then use that as a jumping-off point for tracing the development of our government over time. We will examine both the substantial features and strange quirks of our governmental and electoral system. Why do we have an Electoral College? How do cases make their way up to the Supreme Court? What is gerrymandering? If you wonder about these or have other questions of your own about how our government works, this is a place where we can answer them.

Humanities/Social Sciences, offered by Bob

Folklore to Fads: An Exploration of Social Dance from East to West

How is dance used to preserve history? How does this art form influence concepts of self, community, culture, and global perceptions? Taking on the roles of researcher and participant, students will review influential and underrepresented dance forms from multiple continents. They'll observe, analyze, interpret, and perform folk dances as a method of communication, social awareness, creative expression, and empathy. As a class, we'll reflect on dance's ability to shape storytelling then collaborate to research the stories that move us.

Art/Tech/Engineering, offered by Kei

Upper School Elective B (PM)

2022-23, Trimester 1

Name _____

Date _____

Core Teacher _____

Course Information	Student Ranking
<p>Sociology: Deviance & Social Control</p> <p>This course examines questions like: What type of social norms does our society create and live by, and why? Who breaks social norms? Who gets labeled as deviant? What do deviant sub-cultures look like? How do social norms affect the beliefs that people hold? We will look at the functions of deviance, what productive deviance can look like, and examine how sub-cultures form that create new sets of norms. This can look like examining social movements, “cults” (or new religions), crime, and the relationship between marking deviance and marginalized groups (specifically BIPOC and queer folks) throughout American history.</p> <p>Humanities/Social Sciences, offered by Jamie</p>	
<p>We're Gonna Build a Bigger Boat</p> <p>In this design-build class, students will team up and build two boats from a 5-ft by 10-ft sheet of marine plywood and softwood lumber. This class will produce a one-person boat with more capacity than the standard plywood versions built in previous classes here. Students will team up and create designs on paper, make scale models, and run tests on their designs in water, including scaled versions of US Coast Guard tests. Each team will settle on a single design and then proceed to build it at full scale. The great majority of the time will be spent building the boats. Two boats will be produced in this class, and we will do a formal launch in spring. These boats will be raffled off to students in the class. Students need not be experienced in woodworking and boatbuilding but must be willing to learn in this fast-paced and team-oriented environment. Your designs will also be presented at a national boatbuilding educators conference this November!</p> <p>Art/Tech/Engineering, offered by Josh</p>	

Statistics

A soda manufacturer claims that 1 bottle in 6 has a prize revealed in the lid of the bottle, but you found only 2 such bottles in a batch of 30. Are you suspicious? In the course of this elective we will extend what you already know about statistics so that you have a variety of tools, amongst which are some that you can use to decide whether you have enough evidence that the manufacturer is lying. Data measures and displays, simulation, probability rules, Binomial and Normal distributions, and p-values are some of the tools.

Natural Sciences/Maths, offered by Penny

Ethics and Contemporary Issues

This elective will explore philosophical questions that challenge and explore the fundamental ways in which we think and act. We will ask questions and engage in discussions that will allow us to challenge and justify our moral commitments. Is there such a thing as right or wrong? Are there any moral facts? Is morality a matter of taste and culture? How do we, as a society, go about deciding an appropriate standard of behavior? We will explore these questions and more through the lens of classical and contemporary texts and through everyday examples. We will look at primary sources, diagram arguments, and construct our own arguments in coming up with a course of action. Our culminating activity will be an Ethics Bowl, which will give students the chance to discuss real-life ethical issues, defend positions that they think are reasonable, and provide each other with constructive criticism. An external judge will determine the winner based on the strength and cohesion of the arguments.

Humanities/Social Sciences, offered by Ruma

Intro to Digital Audio, Mixing and Sound Design (Ableton, Soundtrap)

Students will learn the basics of the D.A.W. (digital audio workstation) using Soundtrap and Ableton Live as the software platforms. Students will also learn basic functionality of hardware such as programmable piano and drum controllers, microphones and audio interfaces. Through weekly, bi-weekly, group, individual and "do-now" assignments, students will explore projects that cover various areas of professional audio production (e.g. audio editing, beatmaking, podcasting, music composition, sound design, performance art).

Art/Tech/Engineering, offered by Linwood Harper

Students will need a laptop with at least 5gb of free space for this class to access and install the software platforms used in their projects. Students should also have an interest in public speaking, music composition, sound design, rap or poetry.