

CLASS DESCRIPTIONS CATALOG

Welcome To Denver Options 2016-2017

The year of What Works Well...

We are excited to spend time with you and your family.
The basic information below will help you get started and avoid surprises.

PLEASE READ, PRINT AND SAVE THIS DOCUMENT

("But I want to skip to the Class Descriptions!!!!" That is the fun part, but let's make sure you don't run into any surprises first. Please read page 1 and 2 before sending class choices)

- ❖ Our website is: <http://denveroptions.aurorak12.org/>
- ❖ Email is homeschooldenver@gmail.com.
- ❖ Lanae's contact phone number is: 303-349-5947 - text is fine too.
- ❖ The address where we meet is: 1091 S Parker Rd Denver, CO 80231. Park and enter through the blue doors, around the back by the playground – lower level.
- ❖ Our funding is based on student attendance during the count period. This year that is September 22 until October 19. If you know you will be unable to attend during this time, we need to know in writing. If an unexpected absence occurs, contact us in writing ASAP (email is fine) so we can complete the necessary paperwork. There are several proof sheets and signatures from teachers that have to be turned in if your child is not here.
- ❖ Our number one form of communication after Orientation will be on an app / website called Bloomz. You choose how many notifications you get, what device to use, and what groups you are a part of. Teachers, and all site communication will be sent via Bloomz. You will be invited to join, so stay tuned for those details. We piloted this in the 15-16 year and learned a lot about streamlining the approval process. Bloomz is a wonderful way to find out what your kids are doing while at Options. It is easy for the staff, and will continue to replace group email lists at Options. Ask for tech help if you need it. Don't lose your password. :) (I say this from experience. It is a VERY secure app, so they won't hesitate to lock you out.)
- ❖ The bookroom email is: optionsbookroom@gmail.com
- ❖ The book website is: www.optionsbooks.info
- ❖ The book pick up site is 11351 E Montview Blvd. 80010. It is just west of Montview and Moline. Park behind the blond brick building and buzz to get in. The books are downstairs.
- ❖ After your child is fully enrolled in Denver Options, you can sign up for a time at the book room by going to:
 - <http://www.signupgenius.com/findasignup>
then enter:
optionsbookroom@gmail.com
- ❖ Come with an idea of what you are looking for by going to optionsbooks.info to see what we carry. Bring a checkbook if you plan to purchase consumables.
- ❖ We have a Facebook page – look for Denver Enrichment Options on Facebook and request to join.
- ❖ Your family will be asked to do 2 lunch duty times, and help with one special event each semester. You may or may not be helping with your own child's group. This is not a time to 'come have lunch with munchkin.' We need your help to supervise all of the students. Bringing preschoolers is fine. Just keep them with you.
- ❖ We do have an option to "pay out" your time instead. Talk to Lanae for details. If you would like to be paid to do extra duty, tell us that as well. Dads and grandparents are welcome to do the family duty time if you so choose.

- ❖ We have some field trips during the year. Watch your email, Bloomz and Facebook for opportunities, or use the directory to create your own group outings. They usually use a website like signup genius to reserve field trip places.
- ❖ **Our rules apply to students and adults. We will agree to be:**
 - **Positive**
 - **Productive**
 - **Pleasant**
 - **Respectful**
 - **Kind**

If a student is not supporting the learning environment in the classroom, he or she will spend the remainder of the hour with another adult, and either a note or a phone call will be sent to the child's parents. If this happens 3 times in a day, the child and parents will meet with Mr. Burton to brainstorm solutions to help this be a good learning environment for everyone. This is a "3 strikes and you're out" system.

- We avoid discussions about anything controversial at Options, and instead focus on what we have in common. Statements and questions relating to religion, politics, online activity, evolution, or other 'hot' topics will be referred back to you at home to discuss your family's viewpoints with your own children.
- Options is not a good place for 'boyfriend /girlfriend, who likes whom discussions and games. No one 'belongs' to anyone. We value the innocence of childhood and work each week to preserve that precious time. Even into young adulthood.
- Your family choices about online activity and texting is up to you. We assume you monitor your own children's technology and will send any related questions home for you to work out away from school. Phones, tablets, and other technology can be used with teacher permission in class. You send these items of value at your own risk. At lunch and class changes they should be off and put away. If your child needs to call you, have them tell an adult. We will always let them contact you. **So please leave your phone on and with you!! Getting voicemail when a kiddo needs mom is really yucky.**

- ❖ Please contact us if your child will be absent or tardy.
- ❖ Consistently tardy families will give up their space at Options. Please be in the gym, ready for attendance by 8:40 . Tardy marks are new this year, but have been put in place by necessity to allow for kids who will be here on time and consistently to enjoy the classes. We only have your kids 1 day a week. Each class only gets 1 hour. We must maximize that time without disruptions.
- ❖ Denver Options does not have the training or staffing to enroll children with special needs.
- ❖ We are unable to walk your tardy student to class, or pick them up for you if you need to leave early. Please get a name tag from the main entrance, and drop your child off in the hallway OUTSIDE of the classroom so you don't disturb class. Pick them up with as little disruption as possible. They must be walked to class, not just sent on their own. Please do not go into the room with them. Class changes are a good time to pick up or drop off your children. Please sign them out if you leave early. Inconsistent attendance makes success and building relationships here difficult.
- ❖ Student activity fees are paid at orientation. \$25 per child covers the yearbook and parties, rewards, recognition and special events. Please let us know if this causes a problem for your family. We certainly don't want you to pay if it is a hardship.
- ❖ We don't have snacks to offer here. If you don't pack snack in your child's backpack in addition to food in a lunchbox, they won't have snack.

So there you go. Now you know what the boundaries are. Let's get onto the FUN Stuff. What are we going to DO and Denver Options? Hold onto your hat, we are going to be BUSY, MESSY, learning and laughing!!

Class Descriptions-Tuesday

Welcome! Join us as we make friends, and experience the love of learning during a year in which we'll learn a lot about things that work well in a zillion different situations. What works well with technology? What works well with friendships? What works well in writing an essay? What works well when taking care of ourselves? What works well in solving a hard problem? ... And in every area of life and learning.

Homework Ratings:

- Very rarely - (probably never, but never say never)
- Rarely - Usually just an item to bring or something to share
- Occasionally - Once a month or so – items the students can do without your help or with minimal help. They need to be responsible to do it and bring it to school.
- Consistently – Weekly homework will be given and expected to be returned. This applies to High school students. Students may or may not need your guidance. These assignments are not optional and will be reflected in each student's grades.

New Content? This indicates if this class will cover new material if you have taken it before. Some classes are the same every year - most change from year to year and have a new educational benefit even for kids who have had a class with the same title in years past.

In any learning environment, you'll find science, language, math, and social studies. The content in those classes can be countless numbers of things depending on the goals and grade levels. Our classes may have the same names - and very different content. Please read the description.

Grades: Students in Kdg - 8th grade receive P/F grades based on participation and their effort to add to a positive classroom environment.

Students in 9-12 grades receive ABCD grades based on work turned in promptly and with pride, participation, and the effort to add to a positive classroom environment.

Art: Basics

Ms. Allen

Grades 2-3

New content? Yes

Homework None

Art will be a class where students learn about and explore various mediums and techniques. This class will be hands on and project based. Typically, each class is structured with a brief introduction to the lesson, a demonstration from the teacher, and lots of work time where students are given minimal guidelines in order to maximize creativity. This class promotes problem solving skills, and as the theme of the coming year, pushes students to figure out 'what works well'. Some of the art forms we will be covering include painting, drawing, printmaking, fabric dying, sculpture, and ceramics.

Art: People and Places: How Artists view their world & the people around them.

Mrs. Robertson

Grades 4-7

Homework Rarely

New content? Yes

People:

We will work with Figure Drawing, self portraits, gestural drawing, silhouettes, and photography. We'll investigate how artists utilize these mediums in creative expressions for understanding their world & inviting the viewer to see it from another point of view. Places and Cultural Art will investigate sculpture and painting by focusing on past art forms from Asia & Africa. We'll use masks, games, fiber art & clay works.

Art: Graphic Design and Commercial Art

Mrs. Robertson

Grades: 8-12

Homework: Rarely

New content? Yes

Students will explore the various art forms in advertising and commercial use of product, design and techniques. Printmaking, photography, 3D construction of packaging, invention of new products and illustration will all be investigated in class. The psychology of color and the impact of surprise, feel good imagery, repetition for emphasis and impact will be explored in the high stakes world of commercial art.

Author's Study/ Book Club

Mrs. Lee

Grades:2/3

Homework: Occasionally to read

New Content? Yes

Come join me in interacting with some of our favorite authors and books! We will discuss characters, plot and lessons learned. We will use crafts, games, role playing and character development to interact with literature. Our book choices may change once we meet as a class, but this will give you an idea of the Authors will get to know.

August: discuss favorite authors/books, why they like them, share some of my favorites, games etc.

September: Mo Willems (Don't let the pigeon drive the bus, Piggie and Gerald books)

October: Kevin Henkes (Chrysanthemum, Lily's purple purse, Shelia Ray the Brave)

November: Robert Munsch (Alligator Baby, the paper bag princess, Stephanie's ponytail, we share everything, Thomas' Snowsuit)

December: David Shannon (The bad case of the stripes, Duck on a bike)

January: Jan Brett (The Mitten, Honey, Honey Lion, The Hat, The Gingerbread baby)

February: Laura Numeroff (If you give a mouse a cookie, If you give a pig a pancake, If you give a moose a muffin)

March: Dr. Seuss (Green eggs and Ham, Oh the Places You'll Go, My many colored days, Horton hears a Who)

April: Eric Carle (The very Hungry Caterpillar, The Tiny Seed, The Mixed up Chameleon, The very busy spider)

May: review games wrap up

Critical Thinking and Problem Solving

Grades: 2-5

Ms. McCollum

New Content? Yes

Homework? None

Are you ready to put on your thinking caps? Join us on a critical thinking adventure! We will work together to solve logic puzzles, play games, and ponder deep thoughts. We will learn and practice problem solving skills and have fun while doing so. We will practice deduction skills with Logic Links and Perplexors to "build logic skills, one story at a time, one clue at a time." We will start small and work our way up to more complex problems throughout the session. We will also work together on puzzles, play math and strategy-based board and card games, and even create our own games!

Destination Imagination

Mrs. Corriveau

Grades 2-3

New Content? Yes

Homework? Occasionally.

Destination Imagination is amazing hands-on fun learning that nurtures innovation, courage and curiosity. It's all about working in groups to foster creativity that naturally leads to meaningful experiences in patience, flexibility and persistence, as well as respect for others and their ideas and the collaborative problem solving process. We are not working to compete in a competition, but rather to enjoy the process of learning and succeeding as a group.

Exploring Art through Caldecott Books

Mrs. Bodin

Grades 2-3

New Content: Yes

Homework: None

Using Caldecott Books as an inspiration and learning tool we will create art! A variety of art media will be explored in addition to trying new principles and elements. We will find out what techniques work well for other artists and for ourselves. All materials will be provided.

Film 1

Mr. Stewart

Grades:6-9

New Content: Yes!!!

Homework: Consistently:1 hour per week Homework is expected to be returned on time unless accompanied with a note from your full time teacher - AKA - Mom.

Everyone has a story to tell and people want to hear your story! This class will focus on walking you as the aspiring filmmaker and storyteller through the process of getting your story from your imagination up onto the big screen. Along the path to becoming awesome filmmakers, we will make some movies, watch some great movies, read some interesting things that other filmmakers have to say about movies, talk about some of your favorite movies, and have a blast making our dreams into realities through the art of film. So sign up already so we can get started on this journey together!

Film - Advanced course -

**** Film 1 prerequisite**** Do not sign up for this class unless you have successfully completed one of Mr. Stewart's film classes.

Mr. Stewart

Grades 9-12

New content? Yes

Homework? Consistently: 1 hour per week. Homework is expected to be returned on time unless accompanied with a note from your full time teacher - AKA- Mom

Advanced Film is a course for students in 8th-12th grade who have completed one of the previous film courses at Options and are looking to delve deeper into the science and art of filmmaking. In this course we will begin the year by studying the masters of filmmaking and how they have changed and innovated the way films are made. We will be studying their films and their writings to better understand how to make our own films better. We will then take a more intense approach to making our films by exploring more dynamic storytelling theory as well as expanding our cinematic skills and understanding. This class is going to be awesome and I look forward to exploring a deeper understanding of film and the filmmaking process!

First Grade with Mrs. Bodin

New Content: Yes

Homework: Send show and share and snack in a backpack every week in addition to a lunch box!

Note: Forgotten snacks will not be provided this year. If you are tardy, please drop your child off at the door. We will call you immediately if we need you.

First graders will have fantastic fun when they come to Denver Options! Our theme this year is "What Works Well?" We will integrate this question into our activities everyday. In first grade students will create art, play math games, conduct science experiments, sing songs, read books, write in their own notebook, have Show and Tell and much more! Every student will have an opportunity to be the Leader of the class which includes helping the teacher, writing on the wipe board and being first for Show and Tell. Get ready to make friends and explore at your own pace in our safe, hands-on learning environment. The students will leave first grade at 2:10 to attend PE and Music each week. Dismissal is at 3:15.

Forensics w / Anatomy & Physiology

Mrs Scott

Grades 6-9

New content? No. This class is for students who have not previously taken Forensics

Homework? Occasionally

The science of examining the information about the past. This unit will be a hands on exploration and investigation with the goal of making conclusions.

Supplies required: Composition Notebook

Forensics: The fascinating science often portrayed on popular television shows is the science of examining information about the past. If you like problem solving this will be hands on exploration of investigation and making conclusions.

Areas of study will include: -

- Finger printing
- Making impressions (shoe & teeth)
- Blood spatter analysis using red paint
- Trace evidence analysis using microscopes
- Crime scene investigation

A&P: This portion of the class will explore the various body systems of the human body including experiments, hands on activities and dissections. How many body systems are there? What makes them work?

International Towne

Mrs. Egli

Grades: 6-7

New content: No. International Towne curriculum is the same. Students may choose to do it again. Enrollment is limited to 20 students per year.

Homework:Occasionally Field trip day is Mandatory- You are committing to attending class consistently, and to attending the field trip on Wednesday, March 22

Please do not take this class if you are unable to attend the field trip on Wednesday, March 22 at the Young American's Bank

New Content? No Ameritowne can be enjoyed year after year, but the curriculum is the same.

- \$25.00 fee per child to participate
- Scholarships available

International Towne is an exciting program for middle school students that gives them the opportunity to learn about different countries and actually experience a simulation of a world economy on our field trip. During class time students will learn about the cultures, money and economies of the sixteen different countries represented in International Towne. The curriculum includes lots of simulations and hands on activities. Many interesting discussions are sparked by these activities. In addition to studying interdependence and world cultures, students will be exposed to the practical knowledge of personal finance. Students will also prepare for different jobs including exchanging "money" from different countries and selling souvenirs. This class will culminate in a field trip to the International Towne location at the Young American's Bank, where students can do their assigned jobs and learn about countries in a hands on way. Students who participate in this class often repeat it because they enjoy it so much

Learn to Play Electronic Keyboard- Beginning

New Content: No

Grade Level 2-3

Homework: Consistently! Practice! Practice! Practice!

Supplies: An electric keyboard or piano at home to practice. Book will be provided.

This is a beginning keyboarding class offered to students who are interested in learning music theory and how to play the keyboard. We will be learning music theory, how to properly sit at a keyboard, where we place our hands on the keyboard, as well as learning to play our favorite songs on the keyboard. I am hoping to spark an interest in learning to play instruments and encourage the excitement to continue playing the keyboard or explore new instruments. We will also be incorporating some different genres of music, such as jazz, hip hop, classical, folk, country, etc. We are in for a fun and exciting year and I hope you choose to join me!

Learn to Play Electronic Keyboard- Advanced

New Content: Yes

Grade Level 3/4/5/6

Homework: Consistently: Practice! Practice! Practice!

Supplies: An electric keyboard or piano at home to practice. Book will be provided.

*Beginning Keyboarding is a Prerequisite for Advanced Keyboarding

We will continue to build on the foundation that the students learned in Beginning Keyboarding. We will be learning more music theory, more songs and we will dive into more of what the keyboard has to offer! Work at your own pace to continue where we left off last year. Advanced books will be provided if needed. Bring books or music from home if you'd like.

Kindergarten

Mrs. Lee

Homework: Send show and share and snack in a backpack every week in addition to a lunch box!

Note: Forgotten snacks will not be provided this year. If you are tardy, please drop your child off at the door. We will call you immediately if we need you.

I LOVE kindergarten! I can't wait to help your kids LOVE it too! This is the time to EXPLORE!! INVENT!! DISCOVER!! There is nothing like watching their eyes light up, and their brains dream big. Kids in kindergarten need to be BUSY. They need to try things to understand them. We will do experiments, get our hands dirty, ask questions, gain confidence, and make friends. We will sing songs, count, and run, create, and relax.

We will be busy, busy, busy making friendships and doing partner and group games.

We all have a little adjusting to do, so after orientation day we ask that you kiss and go in the gym, so they can get started strongly and independently in the classroom. We will call you immediately if they need you. Let me know how else I can support you in your homeschooling experiences!

This is the year of What works well! So we will start off first with ourselves, and where we come from. Then we will explore holidays, science experiments, art projects and lots of books.

We cook a lot in kindergarten, so please email me if your child has dietary restrictions. We may need you to send appropriate replacement ingredients.

- ★ 8:30-9:00 Music and Show and tell
- ★ 9:00-10:00 Intro to the weekly topic and Messy Art
- ★ 10:00-10:30 Snack /Recess
- ★ 10:30-11:30 Hands on Science
- ★ 11:30-12:00 Center Time
- ★ 12:15-12:45 Lunch /Recess
- ★ 12:45-2:00 Math / Calendar
- ★ 2:10-3:10 Gym and Music
- ★ 3:15 Dismissal in the gym

We have an assistant in Kindergarten each week. :) We will let you know if we need extra classroom help.

Kinetics

Mrs. Frilot

Grades 4,5

Homework? Rarely

New content? Yes

This class will present opportunities for students to collaborate in fun ways to understand forces and movement concepts. Students will use problem solving skills to complete activities to help develop critical, logical, and independent thinking.

Here are the 5 units:

Physicsquest - a comic book adventure that exposes students to science experiments in aspects of physics

Potential and Kinetic energy lab

3-2-1 blast off lab

Vehicle building and testing lab

Structure building and testing lab

21st Century Language Arts

Mr. Stewart

Grades: 6-9

New content? Yes

Homework? Consistently - 1 hour per week. Homework is expected to be returned on time unless accompanied with a note from your full time teacher - AKA - Mom.

The world is a constantly changing, constantly growing place and we need to learn how to better communicate and interact with the world around us. 21st Century Language Arts is a class designed to help students interact with the expanding world around them. We will cover a range of mediums from Literature and Music, to Film and Video Games. We will use each topic to teach core Language Arts principles in a way that is sure to keep the students engaged and excited about the things they are learning. This class is sure to be a Language Arts class that your student won't soon forget!

Lego Story Starter and Beyond

Mrs. Corriveau

Grades 2-5

Homework: Occasionally- Always discussion at home!!

New content? Yes

Get ready to "build" a story! Working solo and in small groups, students will "construct" the character, setting, timeframe and details for their tales using the Lego Story Starter and Lego Expansion Project kits. Following builds, students will practice presentation skills and read their writing or speak about their story. This is another year of travel! Last year we went flying in a hot air balloon. This time students will write stories about soaring through the solar system in their own individually designed rocket ship! Students will craft their stories in hardcover books. We also will engage in other artful, creative writing projects. Students will learn about the job of a writer, journalism, poetry and the elements of story. It's great fun and growth in writing, storytelling and presentation.

Math: Ready for anything!!

Ms Dague

Grades 10-12

New Content? Yes

Homework? on occasion

This class is designed to prepare even the most hesitant math student to feel prepared for the math sections of upcoming high school and college exams. We will take the fear out of math testing, by being prepared and informed of what to expect.

Topics to be covered include:

1. Number Sense and Operations
 - a. This includes whole numbers, operations, integers, fractions, ratios and proportions, decimals and percents.
2. Data Measurement/Analysis
 - a. This includes measurement and units of measure, length, area and volume, mean, median and mode, probability, bar and line graphs, circle graphs, dot plots, histograms and box plots.
3. Algebra, Functions and Patterns
 - a. This includes algebraic expressions and variables, equations, squaring, cubing and taking roots, exponents and scientific notation, patterns and functions, one-variable and two-variable linear equations, factoring, rational expressions and equations, solving and graphing inequalities, the coordinate grid, graphing linear equations, slope, using slope to solve geometric problems, graphing quadratic equations, evaluation of functions, and comparison of functions.
4. Geometry
 - a. This includes triangles and quadrilaterals, Pythagorean theorem, polygons, circles, composite plane figures, scale drawings, prisms and cylinders, pyramids, cones and spheres, and composite solids.

Real World Math

Ms. Dague

Grades 6-9

New Content? Yes

Homework ? Rarely

This class will focus on math students see in the real world. We will be doing projects that involve:

1. Planning a trip.
 - a. Students will figure out how many miles they are driving, their average miles per hour, how many gallons of gas they will use, and the cost associated with the trip including gas, food, lodging and activities.
2. Going shopping.
 - a. How to bargain shop and use discounts. How to take advantage of store sales and figure out discounts. How to find the price per unit of items they want to buy, especially at the grocery store.
3. Banking.
 - a. Even though students might not have bank accounts they will learn how to balance a bank account and how to figure out interest and fees.
4. Housing.
 - a. Students will learn how expensive it is to run a household. They will look up home prices and rental prices on homes or apartments. They will learn all about living expenses and how much they will have to earn to live how they want.
5. Budgeting.
 - a. Students will create a simple budget and have activities each week that will affect their budget. This theme will run throughout the entire school year and all the activities we do in this class.

Olympic Math
Math from the 50 States
Ms. Dague
Grades 6-9
New Content? Yes
Homework ? Rarely

Do you love the Olympics as much as I do? Do you know that there is a lot of math involved in the Olympics? The Summer Olympics are being held in Rio this year from August 5-21, 2016. I highly recommend you watch the Olympics if you want to take this class but it is not required.

Some of the math we will do will involve mean, median, mode, range, percents, volume, area and unit conversions. All of the math will be done using the Olympics so it will be a lot of fun!

Mixed in with the Olympics we will be learning about the states. We will watch a short video clip about a different state then find out the math related to that state. We will learn what the population per square mile is of each state and relate that number to how many people that would be in our parking lot or classroom. This really puts it in perspective for you!

We will also learn interesting facts about each state and plan an extensive virtual trip based on what interests each student. There will be a lot of math involved in the planning of this trip and it may become a summer trip for some families!

Music
Mrs. Stewart
Grades K-5
New Content: Yes

Homework: Yes- Practicing Consistently

We will be learning about different kinds of Music, for different purposes. We'll investigate different instruments and play some of our own. We will be traveling around the world to Brazil, Africa, Israel, America, Japan and Mexico. We will learn about the Pentatonix and Black Violin. We will be talking about a cool career in music, being a music therapist. We will be able to video walk through the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Gibson Guitars! We are going to sing a variety of songs, such as, "Better When I'm Dancing" (from the Peanuts Movie), "Theme from Spiderman", "Spirit of the Season" (from Polar Express, "If I Didn't Have You" (from Monsters, Inc.), "Try Everything" (from Zootopia), "Candle on the Water" (from Pete's Dragon), and many more! We will continue to review music theory as well as build on the theory we already know. Bring in appropriate music that you like, and we can learn about that together too. The Ipad will be one of our learning tools as we as we investigate the times a places that music enhances our lives. We are in for a fun and exciting year and I hope you choose to join me!

Physical Education

Mrs. Bess

Grades 1-7

Homework? Water bottle with your name clearly marked, and tennis shoes to each class. No sandals. Shorts under skirts please

New content? Some

Denver Options Physical Education class focuses on several wonderful things like.....skills, games, stretching, exercising and plain ole FUN! In our activities we will also reinforce character, honesty, and good sportsmanship (just to list a few). Most of our activities are non-traditional games so that everyone is involved and moving. We will make sure that everyone is included in all aspects possible in every game/activity we do. We will have the pleasure throughout the year to play with a 48" cageball, colorful connecting scooters, pretend to be mice after cheese or sharks in the ocean, and use teamwork to make a 24' parachute tent. We are looking forward to another fabulous year.

See you in the gym!

Revolution and Constitution

Mrs. Egli

New Content: Yes

Homework: Consistently, reading and various assignments.

Grades: 5-12

In this election year it will be good to revisit the origins of our country and our government. We'll examine the different branches of government and how our country got its start. We'll familiarize ourselves with the election process and see what made our founding fathers great. We'll learn what it took to gain independence and about the battles fought in that process. Students will enjoy exploring the origins of the United States in this class.

Robotics (WeDo) & Simple Machines

Mrs. McCormick

Grades 2, 3

Homework: None

New Content? – Some – We have added WeDo 2 and primary simple machines this year. Some will be repeats, other aspects are new challenges.

Students will be using Lego WeDo construction sets to build models with working motors and sensors.

They will program their models to perform a variety of tasks. The students will be working in groups of two or three to build their models. They learn many aspects of good communication and teamwork in addition to robotics.

The different units we will be exploring using Lego Wedo One are:

Amazing Mechanism – Dancing Birds, Spinning Top, Flapping Bird

Wild Animals – Chomping Alligator, Roaring Lion, Drumming Monkey

Play Soccer – Goalie, Kicker, Cheering Fans

Adventure Stories – Rocking Boat, Airplane, Giant

Wedo Two will be an extension of Wedo One with exciting new builds.

We will be working with Lego simple machines in this class as well. Working with the simple machines encourages the students to have great teamwork and communication. They will learn how gears, levers, pulleys, wheels and axles all work together to create movement. They will work with partners to build many different models.

Robotics and Circuits

Mrs. McCormick

Grades 4th

Homework: None

New Content? No, some of the challenges will be new, but the format of the class is the same. Take it again if you would like more time with the kits.

This year the students will be investigating using the Lego NXT Robots, Lego Simple Machines and Snap Circuits. During the Robotics Unit the students will learn:

The main components of a robot

How to use a flow chart and why it is important in robotics

How to program their robot

How to use all the different sensors on the robot

Basic computing skills

Once the students are able to program their robot I will set up different challenges for the students to accomplish. They will be working in groups of two so they will have to problem solve and work together.

During Snap Circuits the students will learn:

About electricity and the basic components of circuits

How electricity and magnetism are used in motors

How electricity runs their homes

The different sounds made with electricity

We will be working with Lego simple machines in this class as well. Working with the simple machines encourages the students to have great teamwork and communication. They will learn how gears, levers, pulleys, wheels and axles all work together to create movement. They will work with partners to build many different models.

Hands on Science

Mrs. Frilot

Grades 2-3

New content? Yes

Homework? Rarely

Hands on Science is filled with lessons that encourage critical-thinking and science skills through group activities. Hands on Science uses a multi sensory approach. Visual setting performed by the teacher, or observe a scientific experiment to see what happens. Auditory setting in which students participate in group discussions with team members. Kinesthetic setting in which students use tactile interaction with activity materials.

Here are some of the many topics we will explore in science this year:

- Hands-on science activities through literature connections
- Observe, compare, dissect and determine the difference between sheep, cow, and pig eyes and heart
- Learn the basic physics found in a yo-yo
- Learn balance and motion by creating and testing toy model

Successful science takes patience and self control. We practice those skills each week so we end up with successful experiments!

Secondary Science

Mrs. Scott

Grades 6-12

New content? Yes

Homework? Occasionally - Homework is expected to be returned on time unless accompanied with a note from your full time teacher - AKA - Mom.

Supplies needed: Notebook, folder or 3 ring binder, writing utensils

Science is not just a collection of facts to memorize. This year will be all about applying observation to draw conclusions. Students will plan and conduct experiments in all areas of science. This will include units on Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Forensics and Engineering.

Biology- Life Sciences including the human body, plants, animals and dissections.

Chemistry - Chemical Science - Will include exploring the composition structure and properties of matter.

Physics- "How Things Work" - The study of matter and its motion through space and time. Main topics will include energy and force.

Engineering - The word itself is derived from Latin and means :cleverness". Time to invent, design and build.

Sewing (By hand)

Ms. McCollum

Grades 4-5

Homework: Consistently: don't forget to bring your project back each week!

New Content: Yes

Learn the basics of hand stitching and sewing! We will start with embroidery and cross stitch and then incorporate these skills into hand sewn projects such as pillows or small quilts. As the year progresses and our skills improve, there will be plenty of room for student input on projects they would like to undertake. Let's get creative! Materials will be provided, unless students would like to bring items from home that they'd like to include in their projects. All skill levels are welcome, the only requirement is a positive attitude, patience and a willingness to learn! Some projects will require time spent at home to make progress (hand stitching is fun, but time consuming!)

Tech Art

Ms Allen

Grades 4-10

Homework: Rarely

New content? Yes

This is a 'digital art' class where students will be exploring and creating on computers. We will be working with programs to learn about the principles of design, photo editing, and even some basic coding. This course will teach students the very basics about art in the digital world, while allowing students to grow and learn at their own pace.

Young Ameritowne

Mrs. McCormick

Full year

Grades 4-5

Homework: Occasionally, Field trip day is Mandatory- You are committing to attending class consistently, and to attending the field trip.

****Please do not take this class if you are unable to attend the field trip on Wednesday, March 1 at the Young American's Bank****

New Content? No Ameritowne can be enjoyed year after year, but the curriculum is the same.

- \$25.00 fee per child to participate
- Scholarships available

Young Ameritowne is a class that teaches students about business, economics and free enterprise in a fun and hands-on way. Concepts such as supply and demand, job skills and work habits, banking procedures, democratic processes, civic consciousness, and career awareness are introduced to the students. These lessons prepare students for a day at Young Ameritowne where students-turned-citizens apply concepts they've learned by working together to operate a 17-business town. **Consistent attendance is important in order to have a successful experience. The field trip is on Wednesday, March 1. Please be 100% sure you can attend before committing to this class.**

Classes, teachers, and grade levels are always subject to change