

Upper Elementary Electives

Semester Classes:

Elementary Ballet: The fundamentals of classical ballet are taught in these classes for girls. Our classroom is a beautiful dance studio located in the performing arts classroom building. Correct technique is stressed at the barre, in center and across the floor. Dress requirements include a black leotard, ballet pink tights and shoes. A black ballet skirt is optional. Parents are invited to a "Parent Watch Day "at the end of each semester to see the dancer's progress.

Elementary Dance Exploration: Students will explore Ballet, Jazz, and Hip-hop during this semester long class. The classroom is a beautiful dance studio located in the Performing Arts Classroom. This course will require the purchase of specific dance attire which will be distributed upon the scheduling of the class.

Elementary Physical Education: Physical education includes fitness activities, sports skills and games. Strength, aerobics flexibility and agility are stressed in the fitness activities, while total body coordination and hand-eye coordination are stressed in the team and individual sports. Good sportsmanship and team cooperation are important parts of this class.

Fourth and Fifth Grade Art: These courses teach creative problem solving and innovation. Using the art of ancient and modern cultures for inspiration, students employ higher order thinking to plan, organize and improvise their own original art. Students learn to use many varied media, methods and tools.

Sixth Grade Art: By sixth grade, thanks to our K-5 art faculty, most students are familiar with the basics of art theory which allow sixth grade art to give budding artists the opportunity to build upon what they've already learned while learning more advanced concepts. Projects are designed to strengthen a student's fine motor skills while also strengthening their eye-hand coordination. They learn to observe and really "see" the world around them through the eyes of an artist. Colored pencil, pen and ink, and pastel are just a few of the mediums used. Students are encouraged to reflect on and learn from their creative experiences.

Chorus: Chorus, a beginner's singing experience, presents basics of singing in a group setting. We explore styles of music and their backgrounds. Concerts are performed at the end of each quarter. Each student must purchase a music shirt to be worn with khaki trousers for our performances. Grades are based on participation.

Drama: These classes encourage creativity, concentration and communication skills while they increase self-confidence and body awareness in students. Dramatic skills are taught throughout the course with drama games, movement and vocal work. Students learn about theater as an art form by studying theatrical styles, folktales and different types of literature. A "Showcase of Skills" or a play will be presented each semester.

Introduction to Computer Science: This class is being offered to our 5th and 6th grade students. Students will be introduced to keyboarding, beginning coding, introduction to computer science concepts and beginner robotics. There will be two sections each semester offered in the 2017-2018 school year and placement will be dependent on scheduling constraints.

Full-Year Classes:

String Orchestra: We offer beginning, intermediate and advanced string classes for violin, viola, cello or bass. Students may begin in any grade (4 - 6). Students supply their own instruments (information on rental or purchase options will be provided by the instructors). The string orchestra classes perform at school functions, scheduled concerts and casual performances around our school.

Harp: Students learn to read music and play solo and ensemble music. Beginners are welcome, as are students with prior harp lessons. Each student will need their own harp for class. Information about rental and purchase a harp will be provided by the instructor. If you would like to speak with the harp instructor prior to

signing-up for this class, please send an email to g.werries@runnels.org. Harp concerts are scheduled twice annually with more performance opportunities occurring throughout the year.

Beginning Band: Students learn to read music and play their instruments. The band director will assist students in selecting instruments. Students must provide their instruments (through rental, purchase, or loan). Please talk with the band director before purchasing an instrument. Each student will need to purchase a music book at the start of school (details given during the summer) and a band shirt. Two formal concerts and several "mini-concerts" occur during the year.

Intermediate Band: Students continue in music learning, performance skills, musical vocabulary and history of the music performed. Each student will need to purchase a music book (details given during the summer) and possibly a new band shirt. Please talk with the band director before purchasing an instrument. Two formal concerts are performed in the Gladys Hague Runnels Theater with other more casual performance opportunities occurring during the year.

Sixth-Grade Band: Prior band experience or permission from the instructor to join is required. Students move to more advanced techniques on instruments they choose. Students also explore the world of music history and music theory. At least four concerts per year feature the sixth grade band, including formal band concerts, the elementary Veterans Day Program and the Mardi Gras celebration.

PLEASE NOTE: Daily practice at home is a requirement of all instrumental music classes. Students in these classes will have the opportunity to participate in the "Solo and Ensemble Festival."