

# *Utt Middle School*

## *6th Grade Elective Course Descriptions*

*Elective courses are offered at each school dependent upon student pre-registration sign-up, facilities, and staffing. Every effort is made to honor individual student requests for elective classes; however, scheduling conflicts or limited enrollment may make it necessary to modify requests.*

### **Beginning Band (3304)**

- Band Beginning includes woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments, and is designed for students who would like to play an instrument or who wish to extend their instrument playing skills. Public performances are scheduled. Students are grouped according to skill, based on teacher evaluation.

### **Falcon Choir (3308)**

- Falcon Choir introduces students to the reading and singing of music for pleasure and performance. Sing everything from Opera to Pop. Students will explore melody, harmony, and chord structures to develop singing and listening skills. Public performances are scheduled, as well as field trips and fun events!

### **Beginning Orchestra (3317)**

- Beginning Orchestra includes the orchestral string instruments (violin, viola, cello, and bass) and is designed for students who would like to play an instrument or who wish to extend their instrument playing skills. Public performances are scheduled. Students are grouped according to skill, based on teacher evaluation.

### **Beginning Technology, Media & Career Exploration (2911)**

*Please select “Exploring Computers” (2911) in Aeries*

- **Middle School Foundations Academy Course:** This year long course exposes 6th grade students to basic skills of computer usage and media design through a variety of technology systems, while combining self and career exploration. Students will make connections between classroom instruction and their strengths, interests and values related to real world jobs in their community while integrating foundational writing skills supported by innovation and technology. Students will experience micro-work activities, reflect on their own strengths, and understand the possibilities for their future.

### **STEM – Gateway to Technology (3006)**

*Please select “Technology PLTW” (3006) in Aeries*

- STEM is an activities-oriented program designed to challenge and engage the natural curiosity and imagination of middle school students. Taught in conjunction with a rigorous academic curriculum, 6th grade STEM is a hands-on engineering program exploring the areas of Engineering Design Process, Automation and Robotics, Green Energy, and Design and Modeling.

### **Exploratory Wheel – Students rotate through the following classes quarterly (2900)**

- **Arduino/CoDrone:** Learn to code using the C programming language while exploring the interactive world of Arduino! Program lights to blink and buzzers to play music using a series of self-paced lessons and design challenges. Once you learn the basics of programming in Arduino, get ready to program a drone to fly!
- **Music:** Students will explore the elements of music, including the reading of music, sound generation, modification and structure. Students then use GarageBand on the iPad to create their own music for movie trailers and other videos.
- **Art:** In Exploratory Art, students will explore the basic elements of art and principles of design as established in the state art standards.
- **AVID:** In the AVID course, students will sharpen and refine their mindset, skills and knowledge in order to be prepared to successfully enter and complete a college-prep academic program in high school. Students will apply study skills and implement strategies to improve performance in the content areas. Note taking, collaboration, inquiry, writing, speaking, reading, test strategies, and use of technology to improve performance and self-awareness will be emphasized.