

2019-2020 Morrill Elective Descriptions

Art (Beginning to Advanced) [Ms. Smith]:

Our art program will focus on introducing and then empowering students to embrace and engage Studio/Artist Habits of Mind. This framework of thinking will allow students of any level to begin to constructively engage their artistic side and begin to build habits that allow them to grow their artistic skills. Advanced art placement is based upon maturity and a portfolio skills assessment.

AVID (6-7/8) [Ms. Lykam and Mr. Villasenor]:

AVID stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination and is meant to prepare students to be successful and obtain strategies that will help them in college and in high school. It focuses on note-taking, organization, and self-advocacy skills. AVID is considered a college-bound program and continues into high school which aides in 8th grade student transitions to the newer environment. During high school, a large component of the program is focused on applying for colleges and scholarships to ensure that all students are eligible.

Band (Intermediate to Advanced) [Mr. Rydeen]:

The purpose of our Band program is to give students the experience and skills of performing in a Woodwind and Brass band setting throughout their middle school experience. Each class placement is based upon skill level and maturity at the beginning of the year. Should their placement be within the Advanced or Honors Band, these students are invited to participate in the March Disneyland Performance trip. There are a number of mandatory performances throughout the year.

Choir (Beginning to Advanced) [Ms. Nguyen]:

The purpose of our Choir program is to give students the experience and skills of performing in a Choral performance setting throughout their middle school experience. Each class placement is based upon skill level and maturity at the beginning of the year. Should their placement be within the Advanced or Honors Choir, these students are invited to participate in the March Disneyland Performance trip. There are a number of mandatory performances throughout the year.

Computer Tech [Ms. Papert]:

Computer tech explores the theory and practical application of programming and use of technology. The class itself is leveled based upon experience, but consistently explores keyboarding and email, computers and the internet, algorithms and problem solving, designing/coding/testing, societal impacts of computing, and creating digital work and coding projects.

English Language Development [Mr. Trinidad]:

For students who are still learning the intricacies of the English language while at school, English Language Development, or ELD, focuses on building foundational skills that are generally assumed within the general English curriculum. Skills learned in this class will be immediately applicable for

students in both their English classes and their Math classes, allowing them a greater level of success and understanding.

Language Arts Support [Mrs. Silveira]:

The focus of Language Arts Support is to build the skills, both organizational and foundational, to allow students' higher levels of success within their English Language Arts class. The LA Support class enables students to complete their Language Arts homework and assignments with guidance, affords them extra opportunities to prepare for tests, and gives them time to read, both silently and aloud.

Life Skills [Mr. Braga]:

Life skills is aimed at teaching students about the more practical aspects of the education they are receiving while adding in many elements that are no longer practically covered by our current education system. Topics range from interviewing individuals within careers and analyzing their jobs for key skills and areas of focus (community or financial for example), to methods of self-management and emotional resilience, to tying ties.

Music Appreciation [Ms. Nguyen]:

Music appreciation explores all aspects of music, from basic musical theories (reading music and chords), to types of music and ways of performing, with minor performances in class but no public performance. Students of all levels are encouraged to grow their understanding of musical creation and performance.

Orchestra (Beginning to Advanced) [Mr. Rydeen]:

The purpose of our Orchestra program is to give students the experience and skills of performing in a Strings orchestral setting throughout their middle school experience. Each class placement is based upon skill level and maturity at the beginning of the year. Should their placement be within the Advanced or Honors Orchestra, these students are invited to participate in the March Disneyland Performance trip. There are a number of mandatory performances throughout the year.

Yearbook [Ms. Smith]:

Our Yearbook program is focused on training a group of students to document and organize the events of the school year into our Morrill Yearbook, which may be purchased in person or online (online preferred). In their training, students will learn not only about the Josten's system we utilize, deadlines, and excerpt writing, but more importantly Studio Habits of Mind that pertain to photography and digital art in particular. This class is considered similar to the advanced art and participation is based upon teacher recommendation and maturity level.