

West Linn–Wilsonville School District

Middle School (Grades 6-8) Arts Curriculum

The Arts

The broad curriculum goals of the West Linn-Wilsonville School District middle school Arts program are to involve students in discipline based arts processes, develop an appreciation of aesthetics and critique, and further the understanding of the relationships between ideas, society, and the arts. Most students experience a quarterly rotation of classes in 6th grade, providing an introduction and exposure to different arts disciplines; and then have the opportunity to focus their arts studies in 7th and 8th grades based on personal interest.

Course of Study

Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
Band (Year) OR Rotation through 4 classes (selection varies by school): • Art • Adventures in Drawing • Introduction to Band • Choir • Music Exploration • Drama • Literature Exploration • Computer Research/Inquiry • Multimedia	Choice of classes: * • Art • Art Connections • Band • Guitar • Percussion • Choir • Drama • Play Production • Digital Design • Graphic Art • Journalism • Presentation/Publication	Choice of classes: * • Art • Art Connections • Band • Guitar • Percussion • Choir • Drama • Drama Tech • Play Production • Theatre Arts • Broadcast Journalism • Digital Media • Journalism • Presentation/Publication
Optional Classes: ** • Orchestra: Beg/Inter (Strings) • Orchestra: Inter/Adv (Strings)	Optional Classes: ** • Orchestra: Beg/Inter (Strings) • Orchestra: Inter/Adv (Strings) • Jazz Band	Optional Classes: ** • Orchestra: Beg/Inter (Strings) • Orchestra: Inter/Adv (Strings) • Jazz Band • Chamber/Select Choir (Nuance)

Notes

* Selection of classes varies by school. Classes may be year, semester, or quarter in length depending upon the school and not all classes may be available to all students.

** Optional Classes (before or after school) may not be offered at all schools. These classes require an activity fee to participate (same as middle school athletics) and do not replace the regular Arts classes.

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The Arts – Course Descriptions – Grade 6	
Band	• First-level, full-year course for students with little or no experience • Students receive instruction on a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument • Focus on embouchure and tone production, fingerings, note reading, rhythm reading, rehearsal skills, and other general musicianship skills including a study of music history and theory • Students will perform in several public concerts throughout the year
Art	• Introduction to elements of design: line, shape, texture, value, form, and color • Students work with a variety of art media, both 2- and 3-dimensional • Studies coordinated with the 6th grade social studies curriculum of ancient civilization
Adventures in Drawing	• Students will work with lines, shapes, space, colors and patterns, to study the art of drawing realistically and imaginatively • Students will dabble with creative writing based on drawings created in class and study techniques in creating a professional display of finished works
Introduction to Band	• Class focus is to allow students to have a brief band experience so that they can decide whether to pursue a more complete band experience in the future • Students will learn some basic music reading and clarinet/trumpet playing skills
Choir Music Exploration	• Students will learn to use their voice with greater skill, strength, and confidence - with an emphasis on presenting themselves in a professional, confident manner and handling themselves in a performance situation. • Focus on beginning music theory, with each student expected to master rudimentary music reading skills, concepts, and symbols as they apply to choral music • Students will perform in a public concert and perhaps have other performing opportunities, depending on the time of the year
Drama	• Introductory course in basic acting techniques; opportunity to develop confidence in speaking and/or performing in front the class and larger audiences – to overcome stage fright • Students will memorize lines; prepare and present skits as part of daily class work • Students participate in different theater exercises, such as pantomimes, improvisation games, reader's theatre, puppetry, or short one-act plays, to stimulate imagination, creativity, and the ability to "think on their feet" when in front of an audience
Literature Exploration	• Students will be introduced to various reading strategies that will contribute to stronger reading comprehension skills • Students will be exposed to a number of wonderful pieces of literature
Computer Research/Inquiry Multimedia	• Focus on a variety of computer skills to improve classroom academic performance • Project based instruction using specific computer research skills based on Big 6™ framework • Incorporates software programs such as Inspiration, PowerPoint, Excel, Kid Pix, and Word while utilizing hardware such as video and digital cameras, and SMART Board

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Middle School (Grades 6-8) Arts Curriculum

The Arts – Course Descriptions – Grade 7	
Art	- Students will become masters at understanding and applying in their work the elements and principles of design - Students will be able to recognize important pieces of art throughout history as well as be able to identify certain artists' works and styles with a focus on art appreciation, critique, and reflection - Students will use a variety of materials and media to explore the following topics and arts: color theory, printmaking, sculpture, drawing, mixed media, artist research, cartooning, collage, painting, and watercolor
Art Connections	- Objective is to thoughtfully infuse art encounters throughout the middle school curriculum. - Students work together to plan and produce displays, create projects to enhance the school climate, as well as work with teachers and students in the classroom
Band	- Second-level, full year course offering instruction for all woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments - Students will expand music notation reading skills, proper tone production, and general musicianship skills and knowledge, including a study of music history and theory - Students will represent their school in numerous performances, including evening concerts - attendance at all performances required - Solo and small ensemble learning and performing opportunities may also be available to interested students
Guitar	- Designed for the beginning guitarist - Focus on beginning instruction in music literacy, music theory, and basic melodic and chordal playing skills - Students will learn the basics of musical notation reading and how to tune their instruments; tablature (TAB) may be used occasionally - Students need to supply their own guitar (preferably acoustic - no amps) and purchase a course book
Percussion	- Open to all students regardless of musical background - Class instruction is focused on music and rhythm reading, percussion fundamentals, and performing as an ensemble - This group performs at school assemblies and for other various audiences
Choir	- Open to all students who have a desire to sing and/or wish to improve their singing and performing skills through public concerts - students will have the opportunity to audition for solos - Emphasis on voice development to help students achieve sufficient skill, discipline, experience, and confidence to qualify for future choir participation in middle/high school, community choruses, or college choruses - Class includes study toward a competency in basic music theory - Students will perform in a public concert and perhaps have other performing opportunities, depending on the time of the year

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The Arts – Course Descriptions – Grade 7	
Drama	• Course offers beginning and intermediate actors the opportunity to develop and improve their skills in improvisation, stage movement, poise, diction, vocal projection, character development, rehearsal discipline and protocol, audition techniques, and presentational theater • Class performing experiences include drama games, exercises, pantomimes, monologues, radio dramas, commercials, scenes, script writing, and one-act plays • Students may view selected videos of classic plays • Students will audition for and be cast in a set of short skits to be presented in a public performance
Play Production	• Goal is to give students the experience of putting on a play from beginning to end • Students will work on audition skills, choosing a monologue and performing it for the class; will be cast in a play (everyone has a role); will rehearse and put together the play • The class culminates in an evening performance at the end of the semester
Digital Design Presentation / Publication	• Students will produce a variety of computer based projects that will focus on digital design; digital photography and video production will be included • Potential projects could include: dream room, music poster, history of gaming, animation, and webpage design • Projects will utilize Microsoft programs that will develop skills to enhance academics; applied curriculum will be incorporated (students may use the technologies to further develop projects in other subject areas)
Graphic Art	• Students will produce a variety of computer based projects that will focus on graphic art • Potential projects could include: lifeline, magazine cover, travel brochure, newspaper ads, and webpage design • Projects will utilize Microsoft programs that will develop skills to enhance academics; applied curriculum will be incorporated (students may use the technologies to further develop projects in other subject areas)
Journalism	• Students will plan, prepare, and produce the school newsletter, using publishing programs (such as Microsoft Publisher) and digital photography • Students participate as reporters, editors, digital photographers, and publishers • Page layout and design will be investigated, focusing on reader appeal

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Middle School (Grades 6-8) Arts Curriculum

The Arts – Course Descriptions – Grade 8	
Art	- Students will become masters at understanding and applying in their work the elements and principles of design - Students will be able to recognize important pieces of art throughout history as well as be able to identify certain artists' works and styles with a focus on art appreciation, critique, and reflection - Students will use a wide variety of media to explore drawing, sculpture, collage, mixed media, painting, cartooning, animation/claymation, and found object sculpture - All students will be expected to meet state and district eighth grade art benchmarks
Art Connections	- Objective is to thoughtfully infuse art encounters throughout the middle school curriculum. - Students work together to plan and produce displays, create projects to enhance the school climate, as well as work with teachers and students in the classroom
Band	- Third- level, full-year course offering instruction for all woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments - Focus on more complex music notation reading, continued development of good musical tone, and maturing general musicianship skills and knowledge, including a study of music history and theory - Students will represent their school in numerous performances, including evening concerts, elementary tours, and band festivals - attendance at all performances required - Solo and small ensemble learning and performing opportunities may also be available to interested students
Guitar	- Designed for the beginning guitarist - Focus on beginning instruction in music literacy, music theory, and basic melodic and chordal playing skills - Students will learn the basics of musical notation reading and how to tune their instruments; tablature (TAB) may be used occasionally - Students need to supply their own guitar (preferably acoustic - no amps) and purchase a course book
Percussion	- Open to all students regardless of musical background - Class instruction is focused on music and rhythm reading, percussion fundamentals, and performing as an ensemble - This group performs at school assemblies and for other various audiences
Choir	- Depending upon the school and length of the class, students may be required to audition for membership in this choir; members of the group may be considered for inclusion in various All-State and All-Northwest honor choirs - Focus is on vocal development, artistry, discipline, and the usual and customary behaviors that are the common expectations of choral directors across the state as well as the attainment of excellence and enthusiasm in singing and the pleasure in performing - Students may be expected to spend time outside of class learning their music with a provided rehearsal tape - Students will perform in a public concert and depending upon the school, have other performing opportunities (including touring)

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The Arts – Course Descriptions – Grade 8	
Drama	• Course offering beginning and intermediate actors the opportunity to develop and improve their skills in improvisation, stage movement, poise, diction, vocal projection, character development, rehearsal discipline and protocol, audition techniques, and presentational theater • Class includes drama games, exercises, and monologue studies; students may view selected videos of classic plays • Dependent upon the length of the class, students will audition for and be cast in a set of short skits or full-length play to be presented in a public performance and may be involved in all aspects of production including publicity, scenery, programs, tickets, lighting, sound, costumes, and directing.
Drama Tech Theatre Arts	• Focus on what it means to be a technical theater staff person (sometimes referred to as "techie", "grip" or "roadie") for a drama or music production • Students will problem-solve how to accomplish onstage effects in the most efficient and cost-effective manner and learn how to make these effects happen for each production at precisely the right moment and with dependably excellent results (including learning how to use all equipment with skill and calm confidence) • Students will learn about the efficient running of the backstage and prep areas as well as managing the front of the house, making sure that the theater-going experience is a great one for the audience
Play Production	• Goal is to give students the experience of putting on a play from beginning to end • Students will work on audition skills, choosing a monologue and performing it for the class; will be cast in a play (everyone has a role); will rehearse and put together the play • The class culminates in an evening performance at the end of the semester
Broadcast Journalism	• Students will focus their technological and video production skills toward providing programs to be broadcast to the school • Potential projects could include: school features, news, teacher features, eighth grade recognition, and other personal projects • Applied curriculum will be incorporated (students may use the technologies to further develop projects in other subject areas)
Journalism	• Students will plan, prepare, and produce the school newsletter, using publishing programs (such as Microsoft Publisher) and digital photography • Students participate as reporters, editors, digital photographers, and publishers • Page layout and design will be investigated, focusing on reader appeal
Digital Media Presentation / Publication	• Students will incorporate digital photography and video production into multimedia presentations • Potential projects could include: producing claymation, adapting storybook tales, movie trailers, and music videos • Applied curriculum will be incorporated (students may use the technologies to further develop projects in other subject areas)

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The Arts – Course Descriptions – Optional Classes (Activity Fee Required)	
Orchestra: Beg/Inter (Strings)	• First-level, full-year course for students with no prior training or those who have completed one year of elementary string instruction • Course builds on techniques learned in elementary school and focuses on holding positions, bowing technique, fingerings, note reading, scales, rhythm reading, and rehearsal and musicianship skills • Students will perform in several concerts throughout the year (attendance required)
Orchestra: Inter/Adv (Strings)	• Second- and third-level, full-year course for students dedicated to achieving excellence in individual and group performance • Students will continue to develop holding positions, bowing technique, fingerings, note reading, scales, rhythm reading, repertoire, and rehearsal and musicianship skills • Students will participate in numerous performances, including evening concerts, elementary tours, and festivals (attendance required)
Jazz Band	• Instruments eligible for this course are trumpet, trombone/baritone, saxophone, piano , bass, drum kit, and guitar; second-level music notation reading ability is required for all instruments • Admission to course is by instructor approval; an audition may be required • Students will learn the rudiments of various jazz styles including swing, rock, ballad, and Latin musical styles • Students will perform at all school concerts, and will participate in competitions and other performance opportunities throughout the year (attendance required)
Chamber/Select Choir (Nuance)	• Students are required to audition for membership in this ensemble at the end of the previous school year and are chosen by measure of both vocal and musical ability as well as musical knowledge • Focus is on vocal development, artistry, discipline, and the usual and customary behaviors that are the common expectations of choral directors across the state as well as the attainment of excellence and enthusiasm in singing and the pleasure in performing • This ensemble is a full year commitment • Students will perform in a public concert and may have other performing opportunities (including touring)