

Salmon Bay Middle School 2024-25 Exploratory Choice Options

21st Century Architecture

Semester 1

This is a hands-on, project-based class where you will design and build different architectural structures. You have choice in the projects, so be sure to bring your ideas. The culminating project is designing and building a model of your dream home. (Instructor: Sam Olson)

Associated Student Body/Yearbook

Semester 2

Are you interested in student leadership? ASB (Associated Student Body) allows you to use your voice to represent the students here at Salmon Bay. The ASB class provides an opportunity for students to develop leadership, communication, and team building skills while fostering an exciting school climate. The class will plan and implement school activities, dances, community events, work together to promote school spirit, and complete school-based projects. ASB will also participate in making the Yearbook. (Instructor: Karly Muller)

Book-Making: Handmade Journals, Books, and Creating Comics

Semester 1

Students will learn a variety of techniques for creating handmade journals and books. Although there will be guided instructions, students will have time for experimental, independent work. Students will also express their creativity by creating their own comic world, developing characters and storylines. During this class, students will also be introduced to cartooning techniques, comic strip and comic book layouts. (Instructor: Ticely Reeves)

Concert Band

Full year, 7/8

Welcome to Concert Band! This is an advanced, year-long course for students who play woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments. Continue to build upon your personal musicality and technique in a supportive community. In Concert Band you will play a wide variety of music from different cultures and time periods – past and present – while performing in school concerts and regional festivals. This course may be repeated. Orchestral string instruments are welcome to join. (Instructor: Mark Oesterle)

Creative Writing

Semester 1

Do you love creative writing? Do you kind of like creative writing and want to explore it more? Join us for a semester in this exploratory, where we will study and create fictional works of various genres (fantasy, dystopian, mystery, poetry, graphic novel, science fiction and much more)! This is a student-driven exploratory, meaning, the course curriculum is 100% decided by student choice. Join us to strengthen your writing skills, dig into lots of exciting genres, and explore your own creativity! (Instructor: Karly Muller)

Design and Modeling

Semester 2 (7/8 only)

Students will use the design process and develop an understanding of the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. It is expected that students will:

- Explain the relationship between science, technology, engineering, and math.
- Describe engineering and explain how engineers participate in or contribute to the invention and innovation of products.
- Describe impacts that technology has had on society.
- Distinguish between invention and innovation.
- Assemble an engineering notebook and a portfolio. (Instructor: Teddy Crum)

Empowerment Math

Semester 1, 6th grade

This course is a supplemental math class designed to ensure a solid footing for 6th grade mathematicians. Develop confidence in your math abilities and learn to enjoy math as we collaborate on challenging problems, learn how to think, and talk like a mathematician, and learn about growth mindset and how our brains learn math. By the end of the course, you should feel more prepared to tackle any challenging math in 6th grade and beyond! (Instructor: Teddy Crum)

Explore Africa

Semester 2

Africa is a continent with 54 nations and a population of 1.2 billion people. How much do you know about this diverse continent? Join us as we explore this magnificent "Cradle of Humanity" through geography, tribal histories, colonial impacts, and up-to-the-minute modern movements and events. Activities include map-making (physical features, tribal, modern political), exploring Ancient African civilizations, A Close Up Look: Nelson Mandela and South African history, student choice projects, partner/connect with students in and/or from Africa, plan your dream trip across Africa. (Instructor: Sam Olson)

Film Studies

Semester 1 and 2

Do you like watching movies? Are you interested in seeing movies from a variety of eras and genres? In Film Studies, we will explore a variety of films and movies such as documentaries, dramas, comedies, animation, etc. Students will also do film reviews, movie posters, and discuss the films watched in class. (Instructor: Tically Reeves)

Game Art, Theory, and Design

Semester 1

Do you love gaming or game development? Students in this class will study and play existing board games to understand how to successfully design and construct their own innovative games. Learned skills such as strategy, logic, probability and craftsmanship will be employed to make the end product. Be prepared to play! (Instructor: Rachel Street)

Geometry

Full year

This course is a core math class being offered for high school credit and is a year-long commitment. Typically, this course follows Algebra 1. We will support students taking Algebra 1 and Geometry concurrently if we have student, family, and teacher support for the undertaking. (Instructor: Deven Shah)

Graphic Design – Beginner

Semester 1 and 2

Graphic Design Beginning is an introductory course that teaches the fundamentals of creatively and effectively communicating through digital images. Employing both traditional and digital tools, students learn graphic design skills, software, and industry standards. (Instructor: Angela Morelli)

Japanese Language and Culture

Semester 2

This class is an introduction to Japanese language and culture. Students will learn basic grammar, vocabulary, and writing Hiragana while studying the culture and history of the country. Activities include art projects (Calligraphy, Daruma Dolls, Origami), cooking projects, culture videos and class discussions. (Instructor: Victoria Schurman)

Kitchen Science

Semester 1 and 2 (7/8 only)

Use your senses to see, hear, touch, smell and taste the ingredients that we use to create things in the kitchen. Kitchen scientists will develop basics skills knife skills, in recipe following and working in a cooking team. You will explore sugar, flour, yeast and make different types of foods: bread, soup from scratch, mirepoix and more! (Instructor: Joel Maier)

Mythology

Semester 1

This course emphasizes understanding and defining classical epics and myths with emphasis on Greek and Roman mythology. Supplementary activities include modern re-interpretations of the myths and the study of Greek and Roman history. Myths from other cultures may also be included. (Instructor: Victoria Schurman)

Percussion Ensemble

Semester 1 and 2

Explore a world of rhythmic possibilities in Percussion Ensemble! This is a welcoming community for students who are interested in learning to play pitched and non-pitched percussion instruments that may include bass drum, snare drum, steel pan, marimba, and more. Learn playing techniques and build musicianship skills through performing a wide variety of music from different cultures and time periods – past and present – while developing lasting relationships with others. No previous experience necessary. All students are welcome. This course will focus on playing the marimbas. (Instructor: Mark Oesterle)

Premier Band

Full year, 6th grade

Continue to develop new skills on your band instrument! Premiere Band is a year-long course for students who have had at least one year of experience. Continue to grow your confidence and musicianship through performing fun, engaging music from a variety of genres, cultures, and styles, while building lasting relationships as part of a band ensemble. This course may be repeated. Orchestral string instruments and students with no previous experience are welcome to join. (Instructor: Mark Oesterle)

Spanish Language and Culture

Semester 1

This is an introduction to Spanish language and culture (not for high school credit but will help prepare for high school Spanish). Students will learn basic conversational vocabulary and grammar skills through creative projects. We will also use Duolingo to develop and improve our knowledge of the Spanish Language. In addition, we will learn about Spanish speaking cultures around the world through videos, readings, and a research project! (Instructor: Katie Gallagher-Hayes)

Study Skills

Semester 1 and 2

Time and space for students who need more work time during the day, and options for one-on-one help. Students will also practice organization and focus skills daily. (Instructors: Lisa Becerra/ Katie Gallagher- Hayes)

Teaching Assistant

Semester 1 and 2

A teaching assistantship gives eighth grade students a taste of the teaching life. Students are asked to help prepare materials, organize, and mentor other students in academic, behavioral, or social situations. If you'd like to be a TA, indicate your preference in the online survey, and we'll send you an additional TA application to submit.

The Art of Photography

Semester 2

Photographs alter perspectives, preserve the moment, and tell a story. Now it's time for you to create your story through the lens. Learn the basics of using a camera, lighting, and how to choose great subjects to create magazine-worthy photos. Amaze your friends and family with your skills. Materials encouraged (though not required): Digital Cameras or Cell Phones (for photo-taking). (Instructor: Rachel Street)

Theater Exploration: Script writing, Acting, Directing

Semester 2

Do you love playing active games and taking on strange characters? Or do you wish you wouldn't get nervous in front of an audience? Gain performance confidence and earn a foundation in the craft of acting, script writing, and directing through improv games, scenes, commercials, and songs...explore it all! This class is made to entice your love of the Performing Arts. All levels of experience are welcome. (Instructor: Rachel Street)

The Ultimate Challenge: Design and Build

Semester 2

This class offers students a chance to integrate science, technology, engineering, and math ideas to solve problems. Creative is encouraged by presenting students with challenges having many potential solutions. During the course, students learn the basics of technical drawing and the engineering design process. Students then develop and use their collaboration problem-solving skills to contemplate, design, build, and explain their solution that complies with the given project specifications. For example, in one project students design a mousetrap car to either go the fastest or the longest distance. The goal of the course is to grown students/capacity for creativity, fun, problem-solving and learning in a STEM contest. (Instructor: Lisa Becerra)

Theatre Production

Semester 1

Winter: Attack of the Zombies by Tim Kelly

This spine-chilling spoof of classic zombie flicks provides a great opportunity for a fun shriek-and-shudder-fest! High school seniors are in charge of "Zombie Night," the annual class party. They locate an abandoned farmhouse by an old graveyard. Actually, the house was once occupied by the creepy, crawly Dr. Thanatos, who tried to re-animate the dead (gulp!). And now the Zombies are hungry...cosmic cannibals! Do the students stand a chance? The spoof races to a spine-chilling and hilarious finale. Comedy/Horror. Mandatory after-school rehearsals are the last 3 weeks before production. All levels of experience are welcome. (Instructor: Rachel Street)

Theatre Production

Semester 2

Spring: How the West Was Dun by Christopher Gieschen

Here's a hilarious melodrama that spoofs many of Hollywood's Westerns and has modern touches to boot. Slick and wealthy Richard Coldheart ("Oh, that's Rich!") must marry Polly Wanda Cracker to control the Cracker property. However, it's Polly's homely sister, Prunella, who wants to marry him! Meanwhile, our hero, Sheriff Wayne John, has his hands full surviving the hilarious antics of well-meaning but not too bright Deputy Doowrong. When a bundle of villains, attempt to take over, things really go crazy! This wild and wooly Western will bring down the house! Comedy/Melodrama. Mandatory after-school rehearsals are the last 3 weeks before production. All levels of experience are welcome. (Instructor: Rachel Street)

Theatre Tech

Semester 1 and 2

Support the Theater Production class by building and designing sets, creating costumes and props or assisting with lighting and sound accompaniment for either the Winter or Spring productions. This class is full of independent projects. Students must be dependable and ready to take on big responsibility and leadership. (Instructor: Rachel Street)

Video Production

Semester 1

Learn all aspects of storytelling through the usage of video techniques. This includes idea creation, script writing, acting, and story boarding. Students will take on and perform the different roles instrumental to creating high quality content including director, cinematographer, sound and lighting designer, and editor. (Instructor: Rachel Street)