

MERRYHILL MIDTOWN
MIDDLE SCHOOL
ELECTIVE COURSE BOOKLET
2022–23:FIRST TRIMESTER



Secondary courses provide students with opportunities to explore a variety of different topics which are taught by their core and specialty teachers. Each course runs for one trimester, unless otherwise indicated, and is held 5 times during a 10 day schedule rotation. Students will take two secondary courses each trimester.

Over the course of the year in 6th-8th grade, students will need to participate in 3 electives which meet the following requirements: 1 PE course, 1 arts course (art, music, design) and 1 technology course. The remaining 3 choices are student choice.

From the choices available, students should pick their top three choices in both the Elective A and Elective B blocks. Requirements can be met at any point during the year. Students will earn letter grades in all elective courses. Students will be placed in electives on a first come first served basis. Using the descriptions below have your student select their preferences using the Google link.

First Trimester Secondary Courses

COURSE A SELECTIONS WEEK 1 - M,W,F WEEK 2 - T,TH	
PE <i>Fulfills requirement:</i> <i>PE</i>	With the help of Merryhill’s talented physical education staff, students will build and apply movement skills, participate in activities to improve physical fitness, and explore a variety of health topics. PE uniform and dress out required.
Art Exploration <i>Fulfills requirement:</i> <i>Arts</i>	Students will work with a variety of materials as they learn about the language of art. As students explore art mediums, the class will discuss art elements and example artists. Students will use line, color, shape, value, texture, space, and design principles to improve their art making and art appreciation.
HSPT Prep Course	For many middle school students, High School entrance exams are right around the corner. From tackling analogies to understanding test strategies and time management, this course is designed to give students a leg up! This course is designed for 7th and 8th grade students, with priority given during first trimester to 8th graders.
Debate	Want to know more about what’s going on in the world? Do you like to discuss and debate your opinions with your friends? The debate class will have students researching their topics, crafting their argument and preparing for debates. You’ll have plenty of chances to share your opinion, work in small groups, and persuade your classmates in classwide debates.
Student Council* <small>Will only be placed in class if you are elected into office.</small>	Student council officers are responsible for planning and executing a variety of student activities including dances, rallies, spirit week, community service, and more. The officers will run meetings and plan events. This course requires independent workers with a desire to get involved in the school community. If you run for office and are elected you will be placed in this class. Students in this class will have opportunities to audit other elective classes that support being an officer.

COURSE A SELECTIONS

WEEK 1 - M,W,F

WEEK 2 - T,TH

Ukelele <i>Fulfills requirement:</i> Arts	Students will be introduced to holding, tuning, and playing ukuleles. The focus of this class is performing simple songs through strumming chords as well as through playing individual notes on single strings. Students will have both written and performance assessments throughout the trimester.
M2News <i>Fulfills requirement:</i> Arts/Tech	Have you ever wanted to pursue a career in newscasting or journalism? With the help of Merryhill's talented tech team, our Midtown middle schoolers will create short news pieces on events around the campus, participate in the Monday Morning Mustang announcements, and work in tandem with the yearbook team to collect school photos. Student council members will also audit this class at various times during the trimester.
Digital Media <i>Fulfills requirement:</i> Tech	All the world has photos at their finger tips. This class will help support the yearbook squad at taking photos for yearbook, learn and master photo editing, and start to work with graphic design for posters and flyers for the campus and more!
Geek Squad/Coding and Computers <i>Fulfills requirement:</i> Tech	Would you like to assemble and disassemble a computer, component by component? Or have the knowledge needed to design your own gaming PC? What about learning how to keep hackers away from your WiFi network? Or coding your own programs? Students will learn this and much more in this fun "technical" technology elective.
Model Making <i>Fulfills requirement:</i> Arts	In this art technical course, students will be introduced to the world of miniatures and model-making! Common in board game and tabletop gaming experiences, miniatures and models allow gamers to immerse themselves into games in a way that promotes creativity and artistic expression utilizing a series of technical skills. From painting styles ranging from washing and dry-brushing to designing, modeling, and creating three-dimensional modular terrains, students will be recording their progress and creating a digital portfolio of their work and skills. <i>A lab fee of \$25 is required, as students will be taking home their completed terrains and painted miniatures at the end of the course.</i>

COURSE B SELECTIONS

WEEK 1 - T,TH

WEEK 2 - M,W,F

PE <i>Fulfills requirement:</i> PE	With the help of Merryhill's talented physical education staff students will build and apply movement skills, participate in activities to improve physical fitness, and explore a variety of health topics. PE uniform and dress out required.
Media Hacks <i>Fulfills requirement:</i> Tech	We live in a world of ever-changing technology and being a member of this campus is no different. And while our students thrive in using iPads in classes, this class offers a look at other kinds of technology that will help them in their future academic and career lives. From keyboarding to using spreadsheets, this class will survey all aspect of technology that make our lives easier.
Watercolor Painting <i>Fulfills requirement:</i> Arts	In this class you will work on drawing, painting, mixing color and creating light and shadow using watercolor paint. Plan your compositions and create paintings using traditional art themes such as nature, still life, architecture and more.

COURSE B SELECTIONS

WEEK 1 - T,TH

WEEK 2 - M,W,F

The Wizarding World of Harry Potter	Students will alternate between reading curated passages from the Harry Potter series, discussing and reflecting on these passages and creating Harry Potter STEM mini-projects. One meeting per week will be book based, and the second meeting will be the STEM building/making/ crafting portion. Students will be practicing engineering skills along with reading comprehension in a weekly escape into the wizarding world of Harry Potter.
Rock Band <i>Fulfills requirement: Arts</i>	This elective is open to students with intermediate skill level playing guitar (electric or acoustic), bass, keyboard, common band instruments or drums. Basic understanding of music theory and the capacity to read notes or tabs is recommended. The student enrolling in this class provides his/her own instrument with the exception of piano/keyboard or drum set, which is provided by the school. Vocal musicians with musical performance experience are welcome to enroll as well. We'll choose songs to play based on class ability and explore rock, pop and other styles of music. If you have questions, please feel free to email Mr. Williams or stop by the music room.
Social Media Moguls <i>Fulfills requirement: Tech</i>	Do you have a Tiktok? Of course you do. Most of the world participates in Social Media. With the help of our tech team, learn how to leverage the skills that you already have being a member of global social media. Learn marketing skills, learn how to make your device come alive, and learn how to take these skills into the future.
Pickleball <i>Fulfills requirement: PE</i>	Did you know that Pickleball is currently the fastest-growing sport in America? If you don't know the reason, let me tell you - Pickleball is FUN! Let's start the day with a good aerobic workout and some down to the wire matches! Pickleball will also teach you tennis fundamentals, a helpful skill set if you want to join a high school tennis team in the future!
Teen Movies and Shakespeare	"All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players." Test your acting skills with theater games, Shakespearean competitions, and scenes from Romeo and Juliet, Macbeth, The Taming of the Shrew, and more! We'll be acting out scenes, discovering what life was like during Shakespeare's time, and learning about teen movies inspired by his works!
Comic Books Today	With the agent of the Marvel Cinematic Universe over 10 years ago, there has never been a better time to be a fan of Comic books! This class will have students focus on a myriad of comic books over the ages, such as the golden age of comics, the Marvel years, and the current age of graphic novels and movie adaptations.