

MERRYHILL MIDTOWN  
MIDDLE SCHOOL

ELECTIVE COURSE BOOKLET

2022–23: SECOND 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 except Student Council. 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.

## Second Trimester Secondary Courses

<b>COURSE A SELECTIONS</b> <b>WEEK 1 - M,W,F</b> <b>WEEK 2 - T,TH</b>	
<b>PE</b> <i>Fulfills requirement:</i> <b>PE</b>	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.
<b>Realistic Drawing</b> <i>Fulfills requirement:</i> <b>Arts</b>	In this drawing class, you will work from pictures and still life arrangements to improve your ability to create realistic drawings. Plan on spending extended sessions on one drawing as you work toward realism and learn ways to make your work more convincing. A variety of materials such as pencil, color pencil, pen, charcoal and pastel will used.  <i>Sketchbook highly recommended.</i>
<b>Debate</b>	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 class-wide debates.  <i>Topics will be updated, so repeat students are welcome.</i>
<b>Student Council*</b>	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. Elected officers will automatically be placed in this class. Students in this class will have opportunities to audit other A Day electives that support being an officer.  <i>This course is graded with Pass/No Pass grading system.</i>

## COURSE A SELECTIONS

WEEK 1 - M,W,F

WEEK 2 - T,TH

<b>Music Exploration</b> <i>Fulfills requirement:</i> Arts	This survey course will give students an overview of all of the different aspects of music. Whether it be auditing different genres of musics, or practicing a myriad of musical instruments, students will be able to explore music with a trained expert.
<b>M2News</b> <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.  <i>Student council members will also audit this class at various times during the trimester.</i>
<b>Media</b> <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! Students will also take on other forms of media such as drone footage and clip editing skills.  <i>Student council members will also audit this class at various times during the trimester.</i>
<b>Geek Squad/Coding and Computers</b> <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.
<b>Amusement Park Management</b> <i>Fulfills requirement:</i> Arts	In this class, we will take on the grueling role of an amusement park manager. You will need to manage your finances, keeping your spending down so that you can research new attractions for your park. Get a loan so that you can build that new rollercoaster for your park, manage employees to keep the park running smoothly and looking great, and more! You will also get to let your imagination run wild when you build a physical coaster in class, testing the laws of physics.  <b><i>Elective Cost- \$25</i></b>
<b>Spanish Art History</b>	Have you ever wanted to extend you Spanish knowledge beyond what you just do in your Core Spanish class? This class gives students the opportunity to expand their knowledge of Spanish Art Culture. Students will audit and virtually visit different art Museums around Spanish speaking countries as well as see retrospectives of Spanish artists from around the world. Students will also receive some practice speaking Spanish.
<b>6th Grade Success</b>	This course is designed to help support 6th graders in their transition to middle school. Throughout this course, students will learn a variety of skills related to organization, time management, planning, communicating, and self-advocacy. In addition to reinforcing academic and organizational skills, this course will also provide students with some additional extended study hall time.  <i>This elective is only open to 6<sup>th</sup> grade students.</i>

## COURSE B SELECTIONS

WEEK 1 - T,TH

WEEK 2 - M,W,F

<p><b>PE</b> <i>Fulfills requirement:</i> <i>PE</i></p>	<p>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.</p>
<p><b>Movie Making</b> <i>Fulfills requirement:</i> <i>Tech</i></p>	<p>Just like the greats Spielberg and Hitchcock, directors have to start somewhere! Learn the basics of film making using Midtown’s own technology department’s resources. From the shot method to frame a perfect shot to editing techniques that make a film flow, this class will give you everything you need to become a film making expert.</p>
<p><b>Intermediate Painting</b> <i>Fulfills requirement:</i> <i>Arts</i></p>	<p>In this class, you will plan painting projects in multiple steps that include sketches, attention to composition, color theory, underpainting and brush techniques. Painting mediums include tempera, watercolor and acrylic on canvas.</p>
<p><b>Healthy Habits</b></p>	<p>This course is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to develop healthy attitudes concerning adolescent growth and development, body image, gender, sexual orientation, relationships, marriage, and family. This course will be taught using the <i>Positive Prevention Plus</i>, a comprehensive evidence-based sexual health and teen pregnancy prevention curriculum for grades 7-8, which aligns with National Health Education Standards (NHES), the National Sexuality Education Standards (NSES), and the California Healthy Youth Act (CHYA). A preview of the course content is available <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p><i>This elective is only open to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.</i></p>
<p><b>Rock Band Advanced</b> <i>Fulfills requirement:</i> <i>Arts</i></p>	<p>This second trimester elective is open to students with intermediate skill level playing guitar (electric or acoustic), bass, keyboard, common band instruments or drums or those who have been in the class the first trimester. 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.</p> <p><i>You may need to audition to be rostered in the class.</i></p>
<p><b>Design Lab 2.0</b> <i>Fulfills requirement:</i> <i>Tech</i></p>	<p>The joys of design lab return to the middle school landscape. From using the 3D pens to create unique designs, to cutting and adhering cardboard to build structures based off of a design plan, students will relive the glory days of elementary Design Lab with a middle school twist.</p> <p><b><i>Elective Cost- \$25</i></b></p>
<p><b>Pickleball</b> <i>Fulfills requirement:</i> <i>PE</i></p>	<p>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!</p>

## COURSE B SELECTIONS

WEEK 1 - T,TH

WEEK 2 - M,W,F

### **Collaborative Zine**

*Fulfills requirement:*

*Art*

In the Collaborative Zine, students will have the opportunity to collaborate in making a number of zines (small circulation publications of original or appropriated texts and images). Each zine will focus on a different topic or theme selected by the students, and each student in the elective will be responsible for a section/column in each zine. Students will have the opportunity to choose which element of zine writing or drawing they would like to contribute (i.e. comic, poem, social commentary, drawing, recipe, joke, etc.). Students will work together to produce and assemble each edition of the zine and distribute it to their peers via Schoology.

### **Cartoon History & Exploration**

In Cartoon History and Exploration, students will have the pleasure of viewing cartoons from Ari Fleischer and early Disney, all the way to modern day cartoons and Anime. Students will discover how cartoons were used to do everything from teaching life lessons, indoctrinating propaganda, and simply making people laugh with zany silliness. In class, after viewing a cartoon, students will take part in a discussion on their opinions of what they just saw, and if it still has place in today's society. Be ready to laugh!

### **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.

*Student council members will also audit this class at various times during the trimester.*