

Washington Middle School Electives

These classes are offered year round with your core classes and mini rotation.

ORCHESTRA

Orchestra is a comprehensive instrumental music program that begins in grade five and continues through grade twelve. Students may enter the program with little or no previous instrumental music experience.

Instruction includes topics such as types of music or composers, basic music theory (note reading and rhythm), music history, bowing, left-hand technique, and style. Students in 5th and 6th grade orchestra write about music and composers, as well as, learning to play their instrument. Performances required.

Studio Art

Students' portfolios are growing thicker in anticipation of the WMS Spring Art Show to be held in May. The art curriculum goes beyond Arkansas Fine Arts

Frameworks and provides something of interest for all students while giving students a foundation for art courses to be taken in junior high, high school, and college. Drawing, watercolor, printmaking, papier-mâché sculpture, batik and careers in art help to expose students to many styles and materials.

Students also participate in local art competitions as well as the Young Arkansas Artists Exhibition.

INNOVATION STATION

Innovation Station, formerly known as Maker Lab I, will introduce students to the basics of various STEAM concepts such as arduino, basic computer coding, automaton, circuitry, 3-D printing and more. Science, technology, and basic innovation is explored. Students must take this course prior to taking Maker Lab.



Agriculture Engineering

Students will connect to nature and improve nutritional attitudes through gardening and life science.

COLLEGE 101

Students enrolled in this elective are given the opportunity to explore many different areas. During a nine-week rotation, students will experience Computer programming basics, STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math—this includes robotics!), hands-on algebra, and classical literature. The learning will stimulate the brain in a very exciting way! (Can only be taken once while at WMS)



Band

Band is an elective that begins in 5th grade and can continue through the 12th grade. Previous band or music experience is not necessary. Students will learn the basic musical knowledge that they can build on throughout high school. Performances are requirements.



INNOVATION STATION II

(6TH GRADE ONLY)

This class has been developed as an opportunity for networking, creativity and hands-on work. This innovative approach to learning and inventing involves technology, graphic design, 3-D printing, and engineering all rolled into a creative experience. Innovation Station I is a prerequisite



ENGINEERING TECH/ CINEMATOGRAPHY

Students will learn basics of movie making, including AR (Augmented Reality) as well as robotics in this project-based class.



MUSICAL PRODUCTION

Musical Production is a performance-based class that meets the entire school year. The students perform on and off campus during and after school hours. Students learn the basics of vocal production while singing songs of various styles and genres. Students will be required to participate in various performances.



CREATIVE COMPUTER CODING

Creative Computing provides students an opportunity to explore the world through computer technology. Students will use a variety of applications and the internet to create digital photographs, short movies, computer animation, interactive programs, etc. They will use Raspberry Pi, websites, mobile apps with the MIT app inventor, and Scratch computer coding. Creative computing students enhance literacy and math skills by creating projects such as slideshow presentations, coding projects, and digital stories.

