



CLASSES OFFERED – FALL 2009

10:00 am – 12:00 noon

ART OF JAPAN

(Grades 1 and 2)

Learn to appreciate the various forms of traditional Japanese art that encompass simplicity, rustic beauty, and subtle elegance. After studying the people, geography, and processes that define the Japanese aesthetic, students will use a variety of materials to create two and three dimensional art that is steeped in the mystery and beauty of Japan

Instructor: **Anne Dunn** has been teaching elementary art in School District 11 for 14 years. She has a special interest in different cultures and traditions using visual arts as motivation and holds an MA in Education with a focus on Arts Integration in the classroom.

A WHALE OF A TALE: AN OCEANOGRAPHIC JOURNEY

(Grades 1 and 2)

If you have a desire to explore the ocean's world of organisms, now is your chance. We will travel along from microscopic zoo plankton to benthic organisms (starfish, etc.) to octopus and squid in the nektonic part of the sea. We will observe, compare, dissect and record, ending our tale with sea turtles and the largest of all creatures, the whale.

Instructor: **Lynn Davis**, currently a science instructor in District 11, has thirty years of teaching experience, including gifted students. She has studied biology as a Woodrow Wilson Fellow at Princeton University and cetacean biology at the College of the Atlantic.

CHESS FOR THE BEGINNER

(Grades 1,2 and 3)

This class teaches each chess piece, one at a time, allowing students to have immediate fun in a non-threatening environment, ideal for those who have never played chess before. After learning seven sentences students will be playing against each other using just the pawns. Additional pieces, rules and strategies will be added as students master each lesson. (Students who know the chess pieces' names and how they move should take "Winning Chess Strategies" as this class is for beginners only.)

Instructor: **Rock Goldberg**, a music teacher at Pinello Elementary, has sponsored chess clubs for 30 years.

AN ICY ADVENTURE: EXPLORING THE POLES

(Grades 2 and 3)

You'll need to leave your mittens at home for these hands-on studies. From Inuit to research stations, from explorers to the arctic wolf, we'll take the "cold" facts from the top and bottom of the world and integrate them into explorations and a "freezingly good time". We'll bundle up for the geography, culture, biology and the people of these regions through literature, art, language, science, and social studies.

Instructor: **Melissa Hess**, a 3rd grade teacher in Woodland Park, has also taught a Summer Math Enrichment Program for gifted students.

EXPLORATION ADVENTURE: SPAIN & ITALY

(Grades 2 and 3)

Come join us as we dive into the culture, the history, the art, the language and the architecture of these two magnificent countries. Highlights will include the architectural design of Antoni Gaudi in Barcelona, the amazing sites and art work of Rome and Florence, as well as some basic words, phrases and greetings in Spanish and Italian.

Instructor: **Diane Summers**, a Guidance Counselor in District 11, has twenty years of teaching experience, including gifted students. She has taught Spanish at the elementary, middle school and high school levels, as well as adults.

ONCE UPON A DANDELION: A BOTANNICAL ADVENTURE

(Grades 2 and 3)

As beginning botanists, we will study the science of plants exploring their identification, parts and cells along with the insects that live off of them. We will learn of monocots and dicots, pinate and palmate, keying and reading keys including nature journaling both in the classroom and outside. Fun and function with photosynthesis, respiration, chloroplasts, osmosis, diffusion and more are part of the journey.

Instructor: **Sue Bowes** holds an MAT in science from Colorado College and is currently a middle school science teacher in District 11. She has taught elementary students, as well as an after school GT science program, K-6.

ARABIAN NIGHTS

(Grades 3 and 4)

Come explore the elaborate art of Arabesque design from Southwestern Asia. Be challenged with symmetry and the creation of your own organically styled Arabesques. A magic carpet picture frame, metal jewelry, a small tile and a decorative door size panel are all part of the experience.

Instructor: **Katie Robinson**, an art teacher for 5 ½ years in School District 11, holds a Master's Degree in Art Integration in Education and has taught gifted and talented students throughout her career.

MUMMIES, MYTHS AND MUSEUMS

(Grades 3 and 4)

Travel back in time to Ancient Egypt where we will encounter the discoveries of archeologists, hieroglyphs, Egyptian math, mummies, pharaohs and the lives of these ancient people. To help us on our journey we will read, write, draw, create museum displays and explore the mysteries hidden in the desert so long ago.

Instructor: **Beth Lewis**, an elementary GT Resource teacher in District 11, holds an MA in Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis in Gifted and Talented education.

DISCOVERING THE NATURAL WORLD

(Grades 3 and 4)

Join a seasoned naturalist teacher to learn the art of observing wildlife and their signs in our surroundings. Become familiar with observation techniques while making use of naturalist tools such as binoculars, field guides and dichotomous keys. As a young "naturalist" you will practice skull identification and learn tracking, utilizing the scientific approach. Approximately half the class time will take place outdoors on some of the wilder UCCS property.

Prerequisite: Students should feel comfortable hiking in a variety of weather conditions.

Instructor: **Jonathan Wuerth**, an elementary teacher at School in the Woods, holds a Masters in Science from Colorado College. He has 19 years of teaching experience, including gifted students.

A CSI ADVENTURE

(Grades 4 and 5)

Become a detective as you enter the world of forensic science. Through a series of experimentation, data collection, history and current forensic methods, we will work to solve a crime each week. Chromatography, casting shoe/foot prints, analyzing hair samples, fingerprinting and fiber analysis are part of the process.

Instructor: **Elizabeth Dalzell**, a 6th grade IB Life Science Teacher at Horizon Middle School in District #49, she has taught in a summer enrichment program for highly academic students and is working on her Masters of Science in Space Studies.

MEDIEVAL MADNESS

(Grades 4, 5 and 6)

Chivalry lives on! We will explore what it would have been like to live in Medieval Europe as we make a coat of arms, design a castle, and become a part of the Arthurian Legend. These hands-on sessions will take you back to the days of knightly honor and adventure!

Instructor: **Heather Sanchez**, a former GT Coordinator and a middle school GT teacher of language arts and social studies, holds a Masters in Curriculum and Instruction, and currently is in the office of Professional Development in School District 20.

CARTOONING

(Grades 4, 5 and 6)

Draw, develop and illustrate your own **original** comic characters. In this class you will learn the basics of cartooning and return home with a love of drawing zany pictures.

Instructor: **Corbin Hillam** is a freelance illustrator/cartoonist. He has taught both art and a cartooning enrichment class in public schools.

INTRODUCTION TO CREATIVE DRAMA

(Grades 4, 5 and 6)

Come play with us in this process oriented drama class! Discover the magic of creative dramatics through collaboration, movement, and improvisation. Learn a variety of theater games and exercises in a safe supportive atmosphere. Explore the basics of theater arts and acting skills through dramatic play presentation.

Instructor: **Patsy Blackburn**, an International Baccalaureate teacher and a former GT Coordinator at North Middle School, has taught drama for 16 years. She received the 2002 Middle School Teacher of the Year Award from ACT.

EXPERTLY SPEAKING

(Grades 4, 5 and 6)

Experience all the “classic” high school speeches with a fun, creative and kid-friendly flair. Students will plan, organize and perform the “My Cool Stuff” speech (introduction), the “Newest Cereal Sensation” speech (information), the “You’ll Never Believe what Happened to Me” speech (personal experience), the “Great Boys/Girls are Fools Debate (modified Lincoln-Douglas Debate), and Reader’s Theater. There are plenty of opportunities for fun and learning with a variety of speech games along the way providing a solid introduction to middle school forensics competition.

Instructor: **Mark Hess** is the Gifted and Talented Resource Teacher at Russell Middle School of the Performing Arts and Sciences in D-11. His forensic team won over 100 trophies last year in area competition.

CHESS FOR TOURNAMENT PLAYERS

(Grades 4, 5, and 6)

In this introduction to serious tournament chess, students will learn to master basic chess strategies and will be given instruction for opening, mid-game, and end-game tactics. Learn from a tournament champion how to win at chess by practicing your skills and participating in a mini-tournament.

Instructor: **James McKenna**, the chess coach at Watson Junior High School, is a life member of the United States Chess Federation, has taught chess for the past 30 years and is School District 3's Chess Tournament Director.

Time for the Following Classes: 8:00am – 9:55am

WINNING CHESS STRATEGIES

(Grades 2 and 3)

This class is for students who have played chess before, but want to improve their play, learning about chess opening, the middle game and the end game. Through basic chess opening moves, students will understand how to gain advantages over random first moves. In the middle game students learn how to gain material using pins, skewers, forks, discovered attacks and by removing their opponent's defender. Students will improve their end game play through the use of fun puzzles that teach the basic position for checkmate.

Instructor: (see Chess for the Beginner).

THE PHYSICS VEHICLE

(Grades 4, 5, and 6)

So you think you know about simple machines and Newtonian motion? We will incorporate the following machines, the LEVER, the WHEEL, the AXLE and the PULLY SYSTEM by building a mousetrap powered car. Learn about Newton's Laws of motion through inquiry labs by experimenting with your vehicle in relation to these simple machines. As a result of data collection you will redesign and reconstruct a better SUPER MOUSE TRAP POWERED VEHICLE.

Instructor: **Cesar Sanchez** is currently a science teacher in the GT Sail Program at West Middle School in D11.

IMPROV ON STAGE

(Grades 4, 5, and 6)

If you are motivated to improve your acting ability, come join us in a time-honored unscripted approach to improv. We will operate in independent and cooperative settings that challenge our creativity, build confidence, develop character and access our quick thinking as we perform in front of others. Positive self and peer critique, along with coaching from the director, will help us learn as we improv together.

Instructor: (see Introduction to Creative Drama).

THE ART OF PROBLEM SOLVING

(Grades 4, 5, and 6)

Come join a unique class that uses a combination of math, science and literacy to discover and create some cool techniques to solve fun challenges while working with others in class. Learn about transfinite arithmetic, computational complexity, and more while you design your own Hotel Infinity, complete the Land of Many Ponds, see who can build the strongest paper structure and challenge yourself and others with critical thinking puzzles and games. It's a great way to start your weekend while learning the art of problem solving.

Instructor: **Phil Hutcherson**, math teacher for 6th - 8th grade GT students in the SAIL Program at West Middle School in D11, is also a current nominee for Teacher of the Year sponsored by the Colorado Council of Teachers of Mathematics.