

# Middle School Electives

2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester

2019-2020

## M-DAY

### Adolescence on Film - Lesley Littman

In this course, we will explore themes of adolescence (the experience you are in right now!) through depictions in movies and television. The selections will highlight what it is like to be a young person. We will explore issues and interactions, both universal and unique, that young people deal with. We will discuss, analyze, and write about what we watch, to gather and process themes related to adolescence. The course will culminate in an independent project that you design, connecting to these themes. Possibilities for this include scene-writing, photography, or film-making.

### Book Club - Sam Wakefield

Do you love to read? Do you ever find yourself wanting to talk to others about the book that you are reading because it is just that good or bad? If you answered yes to these questions, then Book Club is the place for you! In this elective we will have the opportunity to read 4-6 books that have been under consideration for summer reading, and you will get to share your thoughts and ideas about these books. Some of the books we will be reading are: *My Name is Malala*, *Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice*, and *Dead End in Norvelt*. **No Repeats**

### Creative Writing - Carol Kelly

For those of you who love to write your own stories - there will be time and activities based around being a creative writer. There will be plenty of time to work on your own stories, as well as some teacher-led prompts.

### Introduction to Sewing and Quilting - Victoria Scott

This class is intended for novice sewers who have never used a sewing machine and want to learn how to use one. Students will learn how to read a pattern for making clothing as well as how to create a quilt, and will be expected to work on and (hopefully) complete either an article of clothing or a quilt top. There will be excursions to Joann Fabrics and the Ann Arbor Sewing Center as part of the class so students may get materials for their project. **There is a \$20 supplies fee for the class to cover part of the costs of the fabric/patterns purchased. Class limit: 10**

### Model UN - Mr. Lie

Model UN is a simulation of the committees of the United Nations. Each student is assigned a position (country, organization, or person) and must research that position on an assigned topic, debate with other students, and try to solve the world issue they are given. Model UN teaches teamwork, public speaking, research, and writing, in addition to introducing students to global issues. This year marks the ninth session of Red Cedar Model United Nations (RCMUN), and it will be held February 22nd, 2020 at the Business College Complex on Michigan State's campus. While it is not required to attend RCMUN, students will get the most out of the elective experience if they DO attend the RCMUN to meet, debate, and discuss global issues with students from around the state.

### **Paint & Printmaking - Ali Trimner**

This class will give you the opportunity to explore different types of painting and printmaking. We will use watercolor, tempera, and acrylic paints along with printing ink. We will create a variety of relief prints, try our hand at monoprinting, as well as print with common household objects to add texture to papers for mixed-media collage.

### **Pop Culture: Know Your Memes - Beth Nazario**

Memes are more than just a humorous image, video, or piece of text gone viral on the internet. They are part of the “language” of the internet itself. Understanding memes, and the meaning behind seemingly simple images and videos on the internet will help us study the types of communication that have become essential to adolescents and young adults. Memes may become more important in our lives influencing advertising, politics, and culture. Be ready! We will study the history of memes, the empowerment behind them for groups, and their ability to evolve.

### **Science Olympiad – Emily Kwon**

Science Olympiad is a national science competition devoted to improving the quality of science education and increasing student interest in science. By now you have probably been in contact with Science Olympiad Coordinator, Kelly Vohland, and are aware of the level of commitment it takes to be a member of the team. The purpose of this elective is to support you in finding success in your Science Olympiad event. This is not intended as a time for play or study hall. There will be required weekly communication with your coach in order to benefit from the time spent in this elective. The goal is to increase understanding of your event, practice new skills, and expand your horizons in the diverse fields of science, technology, engineering and math!

### **Middle School Band - Mrs. Borton**

Emerson’s Middle School Band is open to all 6th-8th grade students with previous instrumental experience. Emphasis is placed on creating expressive music as an ensemble and improving as an individual to meet the demands of the music. Our ensemble focuses on finding one's individual strengths and seeing the best in others. **This elective is a full-year commitment.** Please contact Mrs. Borton first if you are interested in becoming a new band member.

### **Emerson Chamber Ensemble - Ms. Capozzoli**

This is the string ensemble for you if:

- You practice on all of the days you brush your teeth (ok, well at least most of them).
- You enjoy being challenged!
- You are comfortable with skills such as shifting, vibrato, and spiccato, and you can play in various styles and dynamics.
- You are able to practice outside of class for at least ten minutes, five times per week.
- You would welcome the opportunity to perform in competitions or tours, and you’re able and willing to put in the time to prepare for those events

Chamber Ensemble members will have the opportunity to perform with the the combined MS band and orchestra at the Winter Sharing performance, and in the December and March concerts. Chamber ensemble members will, of course, enjoy our annual trip to Cedar Point in the spring! **This class is a one-year commitment.**

## T-DAY

### **Creative Design - Beth Nazario**

Design, architecture, programming, and 3D printers are part of an evolving modern world of technology. Students will become producers, inventors, and artists by creating, designing, and inventing 2D and 3D objects digitally and then bringing some of them to life in the real world with various materials! Students will be encouraged to modify their designs and meet product demands and challenges. Students will learn various 3D modeling techniques and explore several 3D modeling software tools and packages. **There will be a \$35 lab fee for this course to cover consumables and take-home projects.**

### **Crochet Club -Ms. Capozzoli**

Crochet is a relaxing, inexpensive, and portable craft! Using one hand to hold the crochet hook and the other to hold the yarn, beginning crocheters practice different stitches to create items such as mug cozies, scarves, and even small blankets. Students progress to crocheting in the round, which allows them to make circular items such as beanies and baskets. All are welcome to take this class, including beginners. This class (or similar previous experience) will be required for students who wish to take *Amigurumi*, being offered in the third trimester. There is a \$10 material fee for your initial projects, which include a scarf and hat. Students will bring in the yarn of their choice for the remaining projects!

### **Debate and Public Speaking - Carol Kelly**

If you enjoy thinking through your ideas, and using speech, discussion and debate to make decisions, then this is a great elective. We'll have a range of activities including impromptu and scripted, some collaborative work and the opportunity to take on a verbal opponent.

### **The e-News Team - Bill Wood**

We're bringing back the weekly news show to Emerson school. Groups of 2 people will be assigned to rotating roles each week to put together a fun and informative media presentation that will be shared with the school during Monday meetings. Teams may include: Local News, US News, International News, Sports, Human Interests, Climate/Weather etc. You'll also be in teams that will edit and work on the technological side of things (making this look really impressive to your classmates and staff!).

### **The Play - Mrs. Moon**

This is a complete production of a play from the audition process through performance: with a Friday evening, and a school-day show. The show is performed in March at Emerson School. All those in the class will receive a role(s) in the show. The elective requires after-school rehearsals for all involved from 3:00-4:00, Monday through Thursdays. Two weeks prior to the opening, all participants will be required to attend longer rehearsals for full runs of the show and tech rehearsals Monday through Friday, which may last until 6:00 pm to accommodate the schedules of our needed technical staff.

Students will receive a letter grade and homework, consisting of line memorization and character study work.

**There are costs for scripts and production items of your choice.** The number of students is dependent on the script requirements.

- The production planned for this year is "*Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon*". You may read about the play on the Theatre Arts website: <https://sites.google.com/a/emerson-school.org/theatre-arts/fall-play>

### **Protest Songs in American Music - Lesley Littman**

America has a rich history of protest through music, back to colonial times and slave spirituals, on to blues and folk, then to soul, rock and roll, and hip-hop. Americans have created music that takes on social and political causes, and at times succeeds in generating societal shifts. We will examine individual songs, their historical contexts, and impacts. This will include discussions on heavy topics, related to power, racism, sexism, war, violence, and so on (some songs contain graphic language as well).

### **Quiz Bowl - Bryan Seymour**

Have you ever wanted to play *Jeopardy*? Do you like participating in trivia games with your friends? Do you want to play Quiz Bowl for Emerson at tournaments? During practice, we play team-based academic quiz games with questions from a variety of subject areas as well as current events. You will learn specific skills for successfully answering questions in these types of competitions and get plenty of practice in a game show style format. You will also be expected to study your interests in order to improve your performance and to give your full effort in practice. There are four area-wide competitions on Saturdays from December through March (Dec. 14, Jan. 25, Feb. 8, and Mar. 14) in which we will participate, including the State Tournament. Please sign up for the team only if you are able to participate in the majority of these tournaments, and are motivated to study, learn, and compete while having fun!

### **Salmon & Aquaponics! - Matt Nolan**

Sure, you love and know how to eat them, but can you raise them? In this 3rd annual elective we will be going in depth into the history, biology, and social importance of salmon as we actively participate in caring for ACTUAL salmon that will be released into the wild. First, we will learn how to perform various water quality tests and actively work to monitor and care for the young salmon that will have hatched in the classroom. Second, we'll research, play games, and watch videos to study their life cycle, biology, and importance to the humans financially, emotionally, and deliciously (yum). We will also learn about monitor the fish in our "aquaponics" system that was designed by students last year. Aquaponics is a system in which fish and plants are farmed in an intricately balanced environment. This elective will be fin-damentally jam-packed with amazingness!

### **Sculpture - Ali Trimner**

Explore the third dimension! Paper mâché, cardboard, wood, wire, and clay are some of the materials students will use in creating a variety of sculpted forms. The work of a variety of 3-D artists will inform and inspire our work.

### **Teacher Apprentice - Emily Kwon**

The purpose of this elective is to give middle school students the opportunity to work with members of the Emerson community. The position of an apprentice allows you to serve others, while in return gaining leadership skills, community service opportunities and skill building. Potential areas of apprenticeship might include, but not limited to, helping Kindergartners with QUEST at the end of the day, tutoring lower school students in a foreign language, assisting and prepping lower school robotics, tutoring or peer mentoring lower school students, or even assisting in the front office! Credit towards NJHS volunteer hours is available! Students will be placed in a position that matches their strengths and interests. These partnerships are to be taken seriously and with integrity.

### **Yearbook - Mrs. Borton**

Help take pictures that tell a story and create memories that will last a lifetime. Students that choose to participate in this elective will be given assignments and expected to meet deadlines. They should be organized, responsible, and able to keep up with school work. **Each student in this elective will need to provide their own laptop for editing and a device (cell phones or cameras) to take pictures.**