

# **Niguel Hills Middle School**

## **6th Grade Elective Descriptions**

### **2024 - 2025**

**Not all courses listed may be offered due to school enrollment, scheduling, and staffing limitations.**

#### **BAND (Yearlong Course)**

Band is a yearlong course designed to prepare students for ensemble performances, solo performances, Honor Band auditions at the district, regional, and state level. Students will work on personal organizational skills to allow more productive use of available time for practice and homework activities. Performances will include 2-3 public performances, at least one festival appearance, a performance with Dana Hills High School for a football halftime show. Other performances e.g. Knott's Berry Farm, and or other civic events may be scheduled as time allows.

#### **Advanced CHOIR (Yearlong Course) Teacher Approval**

This yearlong choir class performs music of many styles including Broadway musicals, pop, jazz, holiday, patriotic, classical, multicultural, folk, and music of classic and contemporary composers. No previous singing experience is necessary. Leadership opportunities are available. The biggest difference between this class and the regular choir class is that students must be ready to sing more advanced music, and must be self-motivated & self-disciplined to stay on task. Therefore, teacher approval is required. Space is limited, so priority will be given to 7th and 8th grade students for this class. Students continue to develop music skills such as sight singing (note reading music that has never been seen before), vocal production (how to sing better), and ensemble singing (singing in a group) including singing in unison, 2, 3, and 4 parts. Students also learn how to sing and play ukulele (or improve their current ukulele skills) and write their own songs. This is a performing class and attendance at 4 to 5 evening concerts is required. Additionally, this group performs at many outside events including festivals, Knott's Berry Farm, Disneyland, the Laguna Niguel Tree Lighting Ceremony, and singing the National Anthem at an Angels' baseball game. Students who participate in this class are eligible to audition for the CUSD District Honor Choir which performs at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts. Students may also be eligible for future scholarship opportunities in high school and college because of their involvement in choir. Choir is a great choice for meeting new friends and learning how to collaborate in a positive way with your peers and your audience.

#### **CHORUS (Yearlong Course)**

This yearlong choir class performs music of many styles including Broadway musicals, pop, jazz, holiday, patriotic, classical, multicultural, folk, and music of classic and contemporary composers. No previous singing experience is necessary. Leadership opportunities are available. Students develop music skills such as sight singing (note reading music that has never been seen before), vocal production (how to sing better), and ensemble singing (singing in a group) including singing in unison, 2, 3, and 4 parts. Students also learn how to sing and play ukulele and write their own songs. This is a performing class and attendance at 3 to 4 evening concerts is

required. Additionally, this group performs at many outside events including festivals, Knott's Berry Farm, Disneyland, the Laguna Niguel Tree Lighting Ceremony, and singing the National Anthem at an Angels' baseball game. Students who participate in this class are eligible to audition for the CUSD District Honor Choir which performs at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts. Students may also be eligible for future scholarship opportunities in high school and college because of their involvement in choir. Choir is a great choice for meeting new friends and learning how to collaborate in a positive way with your peers and your audience.

### **EXPLORING ART (Quarter or Semester Course)**

Exploring Art is an introduction course for 6<sup>th</sup> grade students and perfect for those with little to no drawing experience. Students will be exposed to a wide variety of media, including drawing, painting, collage, and illustration. This class will give 6<sup>th</sup> graders the fundamentals on how to approach art and give them the tools and skills needed to learn how to showcase their own creative ideas.

### **FUN WITH TECHNOLOGY (Quarter or Semester Course)**

In this class, students will learn to create professional videos using an online video editing website. Students will also continue to develop their tech skills with Google Apps (Docs, Sheets, and Slides). From the Career Tech Lab, students will be introduced to the Flight Simulation module, Graphic Design (design and produce a personalized t-shirt), and 3D Printing.

### **INTRODUCTION TO MUSIC (Quarter or Semester Course)**

This is an introductory class to music. No previous knowledge or experience is necessary. Learn how music was first written, how to read and write basic music, different styles of music and how to sing and play the ukulele. Ukuleles will be available for students to borrow but will be kept in the classroom. The instrument must be well cared for and returned on time when the course has been completed.

### **INTRODUCTION TO SPANISH (Quarter or Semester Course)**

This is an introductory class to Spanish. No previous knowledge or experience is necessary. Learn about different Spanish-speaking countries, their cultures, and basic conversational vocabulary. Also, learn the first steps on how to teach someone else Spanish.

### **ORCHESTRA (Yearlong Course)**

In this class, you will learn a skill in music that can lead to a lifetime of playing. You will learn to appreciate all styles of music. This skill may open up opportunities for you in high school and may help towards college acceptance and scholarship money. Other performances e.g. Knott's Berry Farm, and or other civic events may be scheduled as time allows.

### **SOAR (Quarter or Semester Course)**

SOAR is an elective class designed to teach skills that will assist sixth graders in becoming successful in middle school and beyond. This course focuses on each student's strengths and challenges within ten executive functioning skills, such as planning, time management, task initiation, and perseverance, which are crucial to success. Students will also learn the importance of self-reflection and self-advocacy, keeping an organized notebook and reminder binder, utilizing Canvas and Canvas email, establishing a creative mindset and building confidence, as well as discovering their own multiple intelligences and implementing study strategies into all their classes. Gratitude, empathy, kindness, peer relationships, team building, and self-control are other topics covered in this elective class. Come SOAR with us!

### **THEATRE ARTS/MUSICAL THEATRE (Yearlong Course)**

The play is the thing in this class! This is a production class with the focus on producing plays for an audience. Students learn acting skills through the process of creating a play from page to stage. Along with the introductory acting skills needed for a play, students also participate in production jobs such as directing, lighting, sound, set design, costuming and stage management, to name a few. In this course, students will apply their talent by rehearsing and performing a play for an audience. If you enjoy acting and love being in front of an audience, this class is for you! If you want to be part of an ensemble that is a family where everyone belongs...this is definitely the class for you! No experience necessary.