

Hunterdon Preparatory School Special Interest Electives Curriculum

Our special interest electives at the Hunterdon Preparatory School really exemplify our mission to foster social and emotional growth in a student population where self-confidence and esteem have been sorely tried. Students have many elective choices that expose and cultivate latent talents and abilities that have been hidden beneath layers of school failure. Once students feel safe enough to share themselves and their individuality with their teachers, a metamorphosis is inevitable. That is the reason why our school building abounds with student art and music and singing can be heard from the music lab on most afternoons. Delicious smells come from the kitchen while giggles from our student actors are stifled by the single word, “Action!” As fun as it sounds, students are collaborating and communicating, thinking critically, solving problems as they arise and cooperating with each other to produce a desired result.

Many of our students find a positive identity through our special interest program. They are able to build their self confidence and repair their self-esteem. Students become more receptive to new challenges and this raises the bar as to what we can expect of them. Personal growth, both intellectually and socially, combine with creativity and innovation. Participation allows them to express themselves and in turn, promotes self-advocacy skills. This program is supported by social experiences such as trips to museums, the Martin Guitar Factory, Teeterboro Airport, Glassworks in Morristown, New Jersey and many more.

At the Hunterdon Preparatory School, students are allowed to select their special interest electives, two per marking period that are held every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1:05-1:45(7th period) and 1:45 -2:20 (8th period). The following course descriptions offer the specific content, goals, and focus of each class.

CRAFTS

The purpose of the Crafts class elective is to give the students an opportunity to creatively express themselves through short-term craft projects. Some of the projects include: decoupage candle holders, bracelets and fuse bead magnets. Students also use this class to create blankets and other handmade items to donate to local charities. Through these activities, students learn to share and contribute their time and talents to both the school community and outside community organizations.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Student will complete projects in accordance with directions.
- Student will maintain work tools needed to complete projects.
- Student will clean up work area appropriately.
- Student will demonstrate ability to follow instructions to begin and end projects.
- Student will improve quality of given projects.
- Student will complete projects in a timely manner.
- Student will improve fine motor control.

MUSIC LAB I AND II

Music is the universal art form that unites the mind, body and spirit. Music opens channels for communication, self-expression and creative development. Music Lab provides students with instruction on a variety of instruments, including drums, bass and guitar. Students are introduced to a broad range of musical styles including classical music, rock, folk, blues, country western, bluegrass and jazz. Music Lab students are invited to explore solo performance, ensemble performance and digital multi track recording. Finally, Music Lab seeks to introduce students to the idea that playing a musical instrument can be an immensely rewarding lifelong leisure activity or vocation.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Music Lab I:

- Student will gain an appreciation for the arrangements of songs.
- Students will be introduced to the rudiments of music theory, the practice of the technical skills needed to play music and an appreciation for ensemble playing.
- Student will learn about the use of scales, chords and rhythm in the production of music.
- Student will work cooperatively with other students by sharing school equipment and working together on music projects.
- Student will learn the proper tuning for guitar and bass.
- Students will develop a sense of personal and group responsibility through the use of shared equipment and the maintenance of personal musical equipment.

Music Lab II:

- Student will achieve a level of proficiency on the instrument which enables playing music together with other people.
- Student will understand and be able to communicate using the musical alphabet.
- Student will understand and be able to follow a song arrangement.
- Student will support the efforts of peers.
- Student will learn to tolerate the anxiety that accompanies performing in front of an audience.
- Student will practice independently.
- Student will maintain academic and behavior standards to stay eligible to participate in after school rehearsals.
- Student will participate in a group project oriented classes.

ART STUDIO I, II, AND CERAMICS

Art Studio gives serious art students the opportunity to pursue an art form of their choice. Suggested activities include producing a series of a specific art discipline or subject matter such as cartooning, landscape, fashion illustration, still-lives, figure, floral, or nature drawings. Students will become more skilled at using the medium of their choice. Students may also produce wood burnings, clay work, mosaic, linoleum block prints, or canvas paintings. This elective provides students with the time, materials, and guidance to prepare their own art portfolio.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Art Studio I:

- Student will follow a sequential plan in executing the project from beginning to end.
- Student will envision a project in drawing, painting, or wood burning.
- Student will prepare a sketch and give a verbal description of proposed project.
- Student will be encouraged to experiment with new materials.
- Student will become adept with proper use of and care of the materials he chooses to use.
- Student will seek assistance when needed.

Art Studio II:

- Student will follow a sequential plan in executing the project from beginning to end.
- Student will envision a project in drawing, painting, or wood burning.
- Student will prepare a sketch and give a verbal description of proposed project.
- Student will be encouraged to experiment with new materials.
- Student will become adept with proper use of and care of the materials they use.
- Student will seek assistance when needed.

Ceramics:

- Student will complete a pinch pot project.
- Student will understand the firing process.
- Student will be familiar with tools and proper care of them.
- Student will understand the terms: green ware, bisque ware, and glazing.
- Student will complete a multiple piece slab project.
- Student will complete an 8" coil project.
- Student will understand the properties, care, and proper storage of clay.

INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS

To be successful and live independently, an individual needs to be able to take care of his or her own basic needs. This class teaches students how to economically obtain, and safely store, prepare and taste a variety of foods. It demonstrates to students how to use coupons and sale items to maximize purchase power within a budget. The class teaches basic cooking techniques that acquaint the students with the functions of various kitchen appliances and tools. Students are exposed to and practice cooking skills that can better prepare them for future employment in the food industry. Lastly the class covers basic eating etiquette.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Student will practice mealtime etiquette.
- Student will learn to work cooperatively in groups to achieve a desired outcome.
- Student will obtain knowledge and appropriate use of cookbook/internet cooking information.
- Student will obtain knowledge of kitchen safety.
- Student will obtain nutritional knowledge and healthy eating habits.
- Student will obtain basic knowledge and use of measuring systems used in a kitchen.
- Student will have hands-on experience preparing meals.

STRATEGY AND COMPETITION

Strategy and Competition offers a variety of games and interactive activities for students to engage in. The course teaches students how to participate in a particular game and learn how to succeed humbly and/or to accept disappointment. Students practice working as a team, communicate effectively and develop leadership skills. The class exposes students to various activities that they can utilize throughout their lives.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Student will practice the skills necessary to avoid physical and verbal confrontation in individual and group settings.
- Student will explore various individual and group leisure activities.
- Student will analyze participant and observe behaviors for evidence of good sportsmanship.
- Student will demonstrate responsibility for personal actions and contributions to group activities.
- Student will compare and contrast offensive, defensive, and cooperative strategies and use them effectively in applied settings.
- Student will demonstrate the ability to function effectively in both leadership and supportive roles.
- Student will demonstrate respect and flexibility in interpersonal and group activities.
- Student will participate as a member of a team and contribute to group effort.

PERFORMING ARTS

The purpose of the Performing Arts Elective is to give students an opportunity to express themselves through live and recorded performances, such as plays and movies. Students participate based on their individual skill and comfort level. Students are able to participate through acting, singing, set design, lighting and sound, and/or through other production supporting roles. Students are encouraged to challenge themselves with the support of peers and staff. Each year the students perform a live production of a classic Winter Holiday play for the student body, staff and invited guests.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Students will work together as a group to present a performance for the entire school community. They will develop scripts, costumes and props.
- Student will participate in theatrical presentation individually and in ensemble, which will encourage and develop their self-esteem.
- Student will portray characters and describe basic plots and themes in creative drama.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

The purpose and focus of the Hunterdon Preparatory School is to provide an integrated educational experience for its members by developing a community environment that requires everyone to receive and assume responsibility for themselves and the community as a whole. The overall attempt is to become a group that fosters a sense of belongingness, cooperation, and feelings of self-worth among its members. Other aims include changing undesirable behavior, developing social responsibility, increasing students' self-valuing, self-confidence and self-control, and instilling pride in being a contributing member of a supportive, cooperative community. By focusing their efforts on projects and activities that benefit the school community and by being acknowledged and rewarded for their efforts, students in Community Service can experience personal, social, and emotional growth for being responsible, working cooperatively and sharing in the outcome of those projects.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Student will create and strengthen their sense of belongingness and allow student to experience a sense of pride and accomplishment.
- Student will be able to understand and follow directions.
- Student will be given an opportunity to partake in positive socialization activities.
- Student will select and apply appropriate solutions to problem solving and decision making situations.
- Student will discuss rules and laws designed to promote safety and health, and their rationale.
- Student will demonstrate employability skills and work habits, such as work ethic, dependability, promptness, and getting along with others.
- Student will be given the opportunity to work with others towards a common goal.

MODELS AND DESIGN

Models and Design is designed to attract the interest of hands-on, project based learners who prefer to work individually on a specific project. The course follows two tracts. The first is that of the art of "model" construction. Students build and decorate a wide variety of plastic models using simple to complex instructions. The second tract is the design, building and flying of "model" rockets. The long term goal of this second tract is to participate in a national contest in which schools compete against others to fly model rockets that achieve specific mission objectives.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Student will demonstrate how occupation health and safety skills relate to industry-specific activities.
- Student will follow through in completing a project.
- Student will create responsibility for care of materials.
- Student will follow written directions.
- Student will develop eye and hand coordination skills.
- Student will create skills in improving ways to learn how to detail a project.

PHILOSOPHY

The word Philosophy means love of wisdom, from the Greek philos (loving) and Sophia wisdom or knowledge). Unfortunately, Philosophy has received a bad reputation in recent times: impractical, esoteric, and weird. Yet, the foundation of the principles and ideas that shape the way one views the world are based on the themes of western philosophy. This course exposes students to the major themes of western philosophical thought and how these themes have influenced current belief systems, rules of morality, and how people understand themselves in the world. The course also trains students to analyze situations using the rules of logic. Today's political and cultural environment is deeply divided on many issues. Appeals to emotion, rather than reason, are often used to sway public opinion. In this course, students will analyze some current political issues and argue positions using the rules of logic.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Student will explore moral and ethical issues pertaining to scientific knowledge and technology.
- Student will explore and reflect on ideas while hearing and focusing attentively.
- Student will question to clarify other's opinions.
- Student will paraphrase others' comments to clarify viewpoints.
- Student will support a position, acknowledging opposing viewpoints.
- Student will communicate, analyze data, and problem solve.
- Student will analyze the beliefs and practices of world religions throughout history.
- Student will apply information gained from several sources on a single topic or by a single author to foster an argument, draw conclusions, or advance research

PERSONAL FINANCE

Personal Finance is a course that students may take to improve their consumer math skills. As in their required core math courses, students are accommodated and assessed on an individual basis. Students who have weak computational skills are able to strengthen basic skills while being instructed in real life math that includes estimating a restaurant bill and subsequent tip, calculating department store sales percentages, practicing grocery store math including using coupons and making a shopping list.

Students who have strong math skills can benefit from review of practical math skills. Every student is required by the NJDOE to take Personal Finance before they graduate. In our Transition course, taken as twelfth graders, a much more comprehensive study of what is required to enter the adult work force is provided.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Students will review money computation problems, including word problems.
- Students will compare store brands, national brands and “no frills” products.
- Students will experience real life monetary transactions.
- Students will strengthen basic math skills.
- Students will design an individual budget.
- Students will practice writing checks, making debit and credit card transactions.
- Students will create a shopping list utilizing nutritional information.

SOCIOLOGY

The Sociology elective is a course designed to introduce students to the field of study known as Sociology and its formation as a discipline. The course discusses the early development of the field by studying the “founding fathers” of the discipline, and the focus of their specific studies. Topics of study include social stratification, social class, social mobility, religion, social identity theory, law, economic theories of society, and deviance. Students learn about early sociological experiments that were designed to interpret how and why individuals act in social situations. In addition, students learn about the multitude of careers that are possible in the field of Sociology.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Student will identify the "Founding Fathers" of sociological thought and their basic theories.
- Student will apply sociological theories, principles, and concepts to everyday life.
- Student will discern the major theoretical approaches of sociology.
- Student will understand the methods of sociological (scientific) research.
- Student will analyze and evaluate the impact that culture, socialization, social structure, stratification, and social institutions have on an individual's life.
- Student will identify the social forces that influence and inform personal choices and decisions in life.
- Student will explore the various career opportunities found in the field of Sociology.

LEGO'S

Lego means “play well.” Students who enjoy Lego class as an elective work towards both individual and collective creative expression. Using a “free build design” process, students use computer software to design construction projects following a problem-solving route to a finished project. Students may benefit from fine motor exercise as their imaginations move from concrete-operational perspectives to analytical ones.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Students will be introduced to new vocabulary using Lego software.
- Students will be able to make analogies, identify relationships, predict outcomes and draw conclusions from data.
- Students will participate in practical, open-ended engineering challenges.
- Students will examine mathematical problems to make their designs functional and accurate.
- Students will take appropriate care of the school's Lego supplies.
- Students will create a picture book of finished projects.